

## Americans back sending troops to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly three out of four Americans approve of President Bill Clinton's decision to send troops to the Gulf to take a stand against Iraq, according to a CNN-USA Today poll published Wednesday. An overwhelming majority — 84 per cent — said the United States should take military action if Iraqi troops attack Kuwait and 30 per cent said they would support action even if Iraqi forces remain at the border and do not invade. Seventy-four per cent of those polled said they were in favour of sending troops to the Gulf compared to 23 per cent who opposed sending U.S. forces to stage off a possible Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. A majority — 72 per cent — also said they were in favour of forcing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein out from power, with 74 per cent saying that he should have been overthrown during the 1991 Gulf war. Mr. Clinton's handling of the crisis between Baghdad and Washington has boosted public confidence in his foreign affairs abilities, with 43 per cent of respondents giving him an approval rating compared to 40 per cent in September.

# Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية عربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

## Expellees return to 'security zone'

BEIRUT (AP) — More than two dozen men expelled from their village in an Israeli-occupied enclave in South Lebanon headed home Wednesday after a one-day expulsion. The return of the 26 followed an announcement Tuesday night by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia granting them permission to go back. They were expelled from their native village of Kfar Housse south of Jezzine, the largest town in South Lebanon. Jezzine sits on the edge of a corridor that juts out from the enclave Israel occupies as a "security zone" in South Lebanon. Some of the expellees said they were told by an SLA officer that residents of the village were suspected of aiding guerrillas who attack the Israeli enclave almost daily. The expellees said the officer told them they should press Lebanese government officials to halt the attacks and stressed that the villagers would not be allowed to return until the assaults stop. It was unlikely the government, which supports resistance to evict Israeli troops from the 1,000-square-kilometre occupied enclave, submitted to the SLA demands.

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# U.S. says Iraq still poses threat

## France opposes 'exclusion zone'; Russian envoys meet Saddam in Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF State Warren Christopher said on Wednesday Iraq still posed an unmistakable threat to Kuwait but Washington stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Gulf Arabs to protect their region rich in oil. He said on a one-day visit to Kuwait that some of the estimated 80,000 troops Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent south towards the Kuwaiti border last week were being moved, but he could not confirm yet that they had been withdrawn.

As of this moment his troops still pose an unmistakable threat," Mr. Christopher said after attending an emergency meeting in Kuwait with foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"We stand shoulder to shoulder to resist any aggression."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd also flew to the emirate and said on arrival: "In moments of difficulty Britain stands by her friends."

But France dampened hopes of rekindling the 1991 Gulf war alliance, saying Iraq had violated no U.N. resolutions and a U.S. military buildup in the Gulf appeared at least partly motivated by domestic politics.

The deployment of American forces "was not unconnected to domestic politics," Defence Minister Francois

Leotard told reporters in Paris.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said France opposed creation of an exclusion zone for Iraqi land forces in southern Iraq — an idea being pushed by the United States and Kuwait.

Mr. Juppe said France "is not favourable" to extending the zone and thinks the West should "turn down the pressure" if it is confirmed that the Iraqi troops are withdrawing from the border region.

Mr. Juppe also warned against the dangers of "over-reacting" to the border crisis.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright said in New York late Tuesday the United States had raised the idea of setting up a demilitarised zone in southern Iraq in consultations with the Security Council.

Mr. Juppe told deputies in parliament: "We should not immediately go to extremes and give the impression that war will break out again."

Baghdad had made a "major political error" in massing its troops near the Kuwaiti border, he said.

"Unfortunately it is the Iraqi people who will pay the price ... and we should not expect the French foreign ministry to turn its attention to erasing the Iraqi government's mistakes."

In Baghdad, Russian envoys met with President Saddam seeking to defuse the crisis.

Igor Ivanov, Russian deputy foreign minister, and Vik-

tor Posuvalyuk, head of the ministry's Middle East department, met with President Saddam at an undisclosed location in Baghdad.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the meeting was attended by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf.

In a terse announcement carried by the Iraqi agency Wednesday, Mr. Sahaf affirmed: "All troops whose deployment had caused such an uproar in the United States have completed their retreat to rear positions this evening."

A Russian embassy spokesman said Russian Military Attache Vladimir Starojuk and his Chinese counterpart headed south Wednesday at the Iraqi government's request. He refused to be identified by name or give details of their mission.

The Iraqi media gave no details of President Saddam's talks with the two envoys.

Russia's Interfax news agency reported that Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would join the team on Thursday, elevating the diplomatic effort to calm fears that Iraq planned a repeat of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq says that it never intended to re-invade its southern neighbour and that the troop buildup was part of routine rotations and military exercises.

Baghdad continued to insist it has withdrawn the

troops whose movement near the border last week sparked the crisis and said it would not recognise Kuwait unless the U.N. sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 were lifted.

"We are besieged and the people are starving, and recognise Kuwait? That is asking the impossible," Parliament Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh said when asked if Iraq would recognise Kuwait.

The Iraqi buildup was widely seen as an attempt to press the U.N. security council to ease the punitive economic sanctions.

Mr. Christopher said all sides agreed Iraqi troops must abandon their present posture, adding: "There is some movement of the troops, but we're not in any position yet to say that the troops have been withdrawn."

The foreign ministers of the GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — said the allied buildup to counter Iraqi forces north of the Kuwaiti border should continue as long as the threat to the emirate remained.

"(The GCC) ministers agreed that mobilisation of resources and deployment of forces should continue until... Iraq no longer poses an immediate threat," GCC Secretary-General Sheikh Fahim Al Qassini told a news conference.

U.N. military observers told Reuters the border was

quiet.

The United States and Kuwait insist that the sanctions should not be lifted before Iraq explicitly recognises Kuwait's U.N.-demarcated borders and its sovereignty.

U.S. troops positioned Patriot anti-missile missiles near Kuwait airport and over 200 troops of a British marine commando battalion also arrived. Britain is sending two warships and donning its Tornado planes in the Gulf from six to 12.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived for the GCC meeting saying the U.N. Security Council should take all measures to prevent any repeat of Iraq's latest confrontation with Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

The agency did not say what measures Prince Saud sought.

Washington, pledging to end Iraq's "cat and mouse game" over Kuwait, has said it has almost 200,000 troops ready to rush to the emirate that was liberated from Iraqi occupation by U.S.-led troops less than four years ago.

Almost 40,000 U.S. troops are on their way to the Gulf or already there. They are backed by 200 planes in place or on the way, the aircraft carrier George Washington, four Tomahawk missile-firing ships and seven other U.S.

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Stateless Arabs who have set up a camp near return to Kuwait and claim their property the Iraq-Kuwaiti border stage a demonstration on Wednesday demanding their right to (AFP photo)

## Jordan does not covet Palestinian land — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein stressed Wednesday that Jordan had no territorial ambitions in Palestinian land but will continue to offer help to the Palestinian people in all domains.

Addressing a visiting delegation of Israeli Arabs led by Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, head of the Arab Democratic Party and member of the Israeli Parliament, King Hussein said Jordan's position was and still is crystal clear on never conceding any inch of Palestinian Arab land.

"The Palestine question is now in the hands of the Palestinian people and their leaders who have bravely shouldered their responsibilities with our full backing," added the King at the meeting held at the Royal Court.

The King expressed hope that an independent Palestine would be a democracy, respecting human rights and ensuring the interests of all

individuals.

Referring to the peace process, the King said that it was a "serious process which will hopefully help the Arabs attain their full rights and attain a durable and just peace."

In reply to a request presented by Mr. Darawsheh for Israeli Arabs to be accepted in Jordanian universities, King Hussein said he would examine this question, noting that special arrangements could be worked out in this regard before the start of the next academic year.

In reply to another request for facilities for Muslim pilgrims passing through the Kingdom, King Hussein said that Jordan was offering all possible facilities for their travel but he noted that there are limits concerning the number of pilgrims which are beyond Jordan's control. However, he added, Jordan would spare no effort in providing assistance and facilities

to the pilgrims to Mecca.

At the outset of the meeting, which was in the presence of the King's advisers and other officials, Mr. Darawsheh delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to the King's peace efforts and his services to the Palestinian people.

Mr. Darawsheh said the Arabs in Israel feel they are part of the Arab Nation and they hope Jordan would open its doors for their students at its universities and for performing the annual pilgrimage passing through Jordanian territory.

King meets Newall

Later on Wednesday, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sir Paul Newall, the lord mayor of London, who is currently on a five-day visit to Jordan. The King and the mayor exchanged views on issues of concern to Britain and Jordan.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday accepts a gift from an Israeli-Arab delegation headed by Member of Knesset Abdul Wahab Darawsheh (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Israel finalising details of 'peace package'

From Nermeen Murad in Elilat

JORDANIAN AND Israeli negotiators are working on the details of a "peace package" that may lead to the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries soon, a senior Israeli negotiator told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"The committees are working on a peace package... something that both sides must be satisfied with," chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein said in an interview.

Asked whether a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan could be signed before the end of the year, Ambassador Rubenstein said that "it is technically and theoretically possible," but he did not want to make clear-cut predictions.

"The talks are moving in the right direction," Mr. Rubenstein told the Jordan Times adding, however, that he "could not predict when that (signing a peace treaty) would be."

Jordan and Israel resumed peace talks on Monday in a

two-week session that is expected to lead to a breakthrough in settling the core issues of delineating the borders between the countries and water sharing.

Although the Jordanian side is trying to keep a lid over the apparent progress in their negotiations with Israel, a new tone was evident in both Israeli and Jordanian statements this week coupled with downsizing of activity as the final details are worked out among heads of committees and the chief negotiators.

A senior Jordanian negotiator said that he could not deny that "there is movement in the negotiations between us," but that "it is not yet up to where the gap has been bridged."

"Our present efforts are concentrated at bridging the gap on the core issues," the senior delegate told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Asked how wide the "gap" was on the core issues, the delegate would only say: "It is a gap."

Another equally cautious delegate said that the two sides "are discussing the de-

tails of the items on the common agenda and especially the core issues of water, territories and security."

While the Jordanian side was careful not to confirm reports of finalising a peace package, the delegates also did not deny Israeli statements that such a process is under way.

Ambassador Rubenstein on Wednesday indicated that there "are not many conceptual gaps" between the two sides and that committees were working on "formulating ideas."

"This is a sensitive time in negotiations," Mr. Rubenstein said. "We wish to amicably reach a peace deal with Jordan and I feel that from day to day we are making progress."

A progress that has so far been kept under tight controls with most of the information being kept within a certain circle of negotiators to avoid publicity.

One well-informed source confirmed that the two sides are putting final touches and negotiating "details" which

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## Jordan-Gulf relation improving — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Wednesday that relations between Jordan and the Gulf states were rapidly improving and that prospects were good for the return of the Saudi and Jordanian ambassadors respectively to Amman and Riyadh very soon.

In an interview with the Cairo daily Al-Ahram, the prime minister also said that relations with Kuwait were also progressing, noting that a Jordanian emissary who visited Kuwait lately was accorded a very warm welcome.

The prime minister noted that he himself met United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan in Geneva and the UAE and Jordanian foreign ministers had met in New York.

In the interview, to be published Thursday, Dr. Majali stressed the need for the Arab states to transcend their differences and confront the challenge inherent in "the new regional order."

Jordanian-Egyptian relations, Dr. Majali said, are good and that the two countries are currently implementing joint schemes as called for by the higher joint committee that met in Amman two months ago.

Both Amman and Cairo are interested in ensuring a Middle East free of mass destruction weapons and also banning the use of conventional weapons. He said for peace to be sustainable such weapons must be removed from the region for ever.

Dr. Majali said the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations were getting ahead. Sometimes there are positive signs and sometimes the two sides face negative situations, he said.

Judging from the negotiations of the past week, Jordan felt that there were positive signs because Israel has shown a tendency towards solving the outstanding issues. However, Dr. Majali said, the peace process has started and there is nothing that can stop it.

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Dr. Majali said the Israeli and Jordanian negotiators were involved in examining questions related to land, water, refugees, economy and security.

Progress has been achieved in such areas as security and water rights, Dr. Majali said. Discussion over the common borders is continuing and it will take a long time although the two sides have agreed to open border crossing points to facilitate the travel of third country nationals, he said.

Jordan has placed its right to the waters of Yarmouk and Jordan rivers at the top of the agenda and is pursuing the negotiations over this through a canal is something said the prime minister, who added that joint water projects with Israel can only be implemented after Jordan secures its full share of water.

The prime minister said linking telephone lines or opening border crossing points is something which can be done easily but linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea through a canal is something that takes years to study and raise funds for. He said most of the joint schemes are beyond reach at the moment.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. Majali said that the aspired coordination between the two sides does not exist at the moment.

"We need to reach a formula that determines and defines the relationship between the two sides and settles outstanding issues between them," Dr. Majali said.

Referring to the Hashemite's rights in Jerusalem, he said that they date back to the pre-1948 war. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians have agreed to preserve Jordan's guardianship over the holy sites and Jordan will retain this right, especially as the future of the Holy City is still to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Dr. Majali said.

In reply to a question concerning prospects of a confederation between the two

## Self-rule moves in serious crisis over soldier's kidnap

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL ON Wednesday held Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responsible for the fate of an Israeli soldier kidnapped by the Hamas group, saying the trail led to autonomous Gaza Strip.

The kidnapping has plunged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) into their deepest crisis since the September 1993 signing of the autonomy agreement, and Israeli government ministers threatened to freeze indefinitely talks on expanding self-rule if Mr. Arafat did not act.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman said the missing soldier was not in Gaza, but Mr. Arafat met Wednesday with three leaders of Hamas in the strip and asked for help in finding

the hostage.

"We don't know whether he has been kidnapped because we have not been contacted by any Palestinian group," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a videotape released by Hamas on Wednesday, the kidnapped soldier, 19-year-old Nachshon, urged his government to meet his captors' demands and free some 200 Palestinians by 9 a.m. (GMT) Friday.

"If not, they will kill me," said Corporal Waxman, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen who finished high school six months ago.

"I ask you to do all you can so I get out of here alive," said Cpl. Waxman, staring straight ahead and looking scared and dazed. A man, his

face masked by a red headscarf, stood behind, holding an automatic rifle in his left hand.

The man prompted Cpl. Waxman several times with questions in Hebrew and at the end placed a hand on the soldier's shoulder.

It was not known when or where Cpl. Waxman was filmed. He went missing Sunday night, and it is believed he was abducted somewhere in central Israel while hitchhiking.

Israeli government ministers, speaking after an emergency cabinet session Wednesday, said that if Mr. Arafat did not try to catch the kidnappers, Israel could not be expected to negotiate expanding self-rule to the West

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# Iran says it can get arms despite Russian refusal

12:30	Abu Dhabi (GF)	20:45	Sana'a (add) (TY)
13:00	Riyadh (SV)	01:25	Amsterdam (KL)
16:05	Dubai (EK)		
19:20	Cairo (MS)		
19:45	Sana'a (add) (TY)		
20:15	Beirut (ME)		
22:20	Istanbul (TK)		
01:25	Amsterdam (KL)		

DEPARTURES		MARKET PRICES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)		Upper/lower price in filz per kg.	
Flights			
(Terminal 1)			
05:45	Beirut (RJ)	Apple	720-800
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)	Banana	660
10:45	Afu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)	Banana (Mukammarr)	620
11:00	Rome (RJ)	Cabbage	110/180
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)	Carrot	300/200
11:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)	Cauliflower	260/180
11:35	Paris (RJ)	Cauliflower	300/200
12:00	Athens (RJ)	Cucumbers (large)	320/190
12:15	London (RJ)	Cucumbers (small)	320/220
12:45	Cairo (RJ)	Eggplant	300/200
19:15	Larnaca (RJ)	Garlic	1200/800
20:10	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	Grape	650/450
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)	.....wani	1000/650
21:30	Picula, Muscat (RJ)	Leek	260/180
21:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)	Marrow (large)	160/80
		Marrow (small)	340/240
		Mulukhiyah	180/100
		Olive (green)	400/300
		Onion (green)	390/240
		Onion (dry)	380/240
		Pepper (hot)	320/220
		Pepper (sweet)	320/220
		Potato	320/220
		Spich	280/160
		Tomato	320/220
		String beans	







## U.K. Conservative leaders seek to play down EU row

BOURNEMOUTH, England (R) — Ruling Conservative Party leaders Wednesday sought to dismiss a row over Europe as the work of an embittered minority and tried to shift the focus of their annual conference onto the British economy.

But the in-fighting, which erupted when former Finance Minister Norman Lamont called for Britain to pull back from the European Union, showed no sign of going away.

The row dominated newspaper front pages. The Times newspaper said Mr. Lamont's call shattered the party's "easy truce" on Europe while the right-wing Daily Mail's front page trumpeted: "Lamont delivers Euro bombshell."

Mr. Lamont, in a speech to a fringe meeting Tuesday, warned that moves to a European superstate being forced on Britain by its European partners were poisoning the ruling party.

To loud applause, in stark contrast to the subdued mood of the main conference, Mr. Lamont said Britain made no economic gain from membership of the Union and had to look at its options.

"One day it may mean contemplating withdrawal," he said.

Angry cabinet ministers denounced Mr. Lamont. De-

fence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, interviewed by the BBC, said he could think of no reason for Britain to quit Europe.

"The European Union is enormously important to our security and stability," Mr. Rifkind said.

And Environment Secretary John Gummer told the same BBC Radio programme: "It would be quite impossible for Britain to make such a decision and be able to go on with our policies."

Party officials joined the attack on Mr. Lamont, dismissing him as embittered by his sacking as finance minister by Prime Minister John Major last May and, by changes in electoral boundaries that have left him seeking a new parliamentary seat.

Even cabinet ministers known to be sceptical on Europe closed ranks. Employment Secretary Michael Portillo told the BBC: "We are very distinctive (from the opposition Labour Party) on the question of Europe. But not in the way Lamont has said."

But former cabinet minister Norman Tebbit stoked the flames, saying Wednesday there was a majority of overall party members and even Conservative members of parliament concerned by the European Union.

The row threatened to hi-

jack the conference, already mired in allegations of sleaze over charges Margaret Thatcher's son was paid £12 million (\$19 million) for an arms deal with Saudi Arabia signed by his mother when she was prime minister.

Party managers had hoped to use the conference to regain the political centres ground occupied by opposition Labour leader Tony Blair at his party conference last week.

Mr. Blair stunned the Conservatives with a sparkling performance in which he announced plans to cut Labour's link with its Socialist past, which has dogged it through four successive election defeats.

But with an election not due until 1997, party grandees have been urging Mr. Major not to panic, to avoid attacking Mr. Blair directly and to concentrate on a recovering economy delivering the party a fifth election victory.

Unemployment figures announced Wednesday gave the government a boost, showing a further fall of 28,000 in September. Ministers were scheduled Wednesday to calm the party's nerves by hailing the government's economic record.

Mr. Major was dealt another blow Wednesday when a Conservative member

of parliament, John Blackburn, died of a heart attack.

The death cut Mr. Major's parliamentary majority to just 14 and will force a by-election. Other by-elections in the last two years have dealt them stinging defeats across the country.

Meanwhile, an ICM poll in the Guardian Wednesday showed the popularity of Mr. Blair's Labour Party has again risen following his recent conference triumph.

According to the poll, 49 per cent of respondents said they would support Labour, 32 per cent Conservative and a mere 15 per cent the centrist Liberal Democrats.

October's survey results match those for Labour in August, shortly after Mr. Blair was elected opposition leader. In July they registered 44 per cent, and 45 per cent in September.

But the intervening period has been a disaster for Paddy Ashdown and his Liberal Democrats, Britain's third party. This month's figure of 15 per cent — which comes after a difficult party conference — is the lowest for 18 months.

Fortunes of the ruling Tories, who began their conference Tuesday, have fluctuated from 31 per cent in July to 28 per cent in August, and 33 per cent in September.

## Fujimori to run against his spouse in Peruvian presidential elections

LIMA (R) — The husband-wife battle for the Peruvian presidency became official Tuesday when Susana Higuchi registered her candidacy for a run against her estranged husband President Alberto Fujimori.

Mrs. Higuchi, cool and collected amid pandemonium at the National Electoral Board as the seconds ticked down to the filing deadline, personally handed in the petition signatures and other documents of her Harmony 21st Century Movement.

She showed up just 10 minutes before registration for presidential and vice-

presidential candidates closed.

Mrs. Higuchi had said in mid-September she intended to run for president but it had been unclear whether she would register after her spokesmen said tens of thousands of supporters' names were erased from the computer at her movement's headquarters. It was not clear if sabotage was involved in the loss of the names but Peru had suffered a blackout that week.

Mrs. Higuchi's protest in July of an electoral law barring relatives of the president from running for office led to

her estrangement from Mr. Fujimori and unprecedented husband-and-wife rivalry for the presidency.

It remains to be seen whether the National Electoral Board will allow Mrs. Higuchi's candidacy to stand but she said in a press conference that she would go to international forums to appeal her case if she was barred from running.

Mr. Fujimori went to a Lima shanty town at the weekend to announce he would seek reelection, saying he needs a second five-year term to complete a process of "national reconstruction" begun in 1990.

## Fire destroys hundreds of shops in old Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Fire gutted hundreds of shops in a crowded marketplace in the old city of Delhi early Wednesday and blazed for more than five hours before firemen brought it under control, authorities said.

Two firemen were slightly hurt as at least 200 small shops in five low buildings were destroyed in the fire which broke out at 7:25 a.m. (0155 GMT) in a plastic-ware shop in the Sadar Bazar wholesale market and quickly spread.

Another building with more than 50 shops partially collapsed, police said. There were no other reports of injuries.

The market, which supplies most of the northern region with plastic goods, clothing and household goods, is in one of the Indian capital's most congested areas but the neighbourhood was largely empty when the fire started.

Forty-three firetrucks converged on the marketplace but were unable to reach the scene of the blaze because the 1.5 metre (four foot) wide alleys were too narrow, authorities said.

The firefighters had to use 200 metre long hoses connected to tankers which quickly ran out of water.



Police arrest supporters of the opposition called for the resignation of Prime Minister Pakistan Muslim League (PML) during a general strike called by former premier and opposition leader Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Sharif

## Feud sharpens polarisation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's political divide widened as both sides claimed victory Wednesday in an opposition sponsored general strike which was marred by sporadic violence that left six people dead.

The opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said the strike was a "success" but Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party called it a "flop."

The PML was meeting in Lahore Wednesday to finalise plans for the next phase of its campaign spearheaded by former Premier Nawaz Sharif to topple Ms. Bhutto's year-old government.

Mr. Sharif had called Tuesday for what was termed a "wheel jam strike" to cripple transport and paralyse commercial and industrial life.

He called the strike a "complete success" and said the countrywide protest represented another "referendum" against the government.

"After the historic strike, Bhutto has no justification, moral or political, to stay in power any longer. By now

she should have resigned," he said.

But Ms. Bhutto's ministers and officials, dismissed the strike as a "flop," saying the country had "rejected" agitation politics.

Without going into the impact of the strike, the independent daily The Nation termed the ongoing battle an apt manifestation of the country's divided and polarised political scene handed down by the electorate in 1993 general elections.

"If the government claims the opposition did not succeed in completely paralysing normal life, it does not imply that there isn't any serious challenge to the party in power," it said.

It said the fight for power had turned into a reckless vendetta that "can spell disaster for the system and the country unless reined in by mutual agreement."

Mr. Sharif had vowed that no vehicle would be allowed to run on Pakistani roads as part of his month-old campaign against Ms. Bhutto's "corrupt and inefficient

rule."

He claimed Ms. Bhutto's government had put his agenda of economic growth in reverse and succumbed to U.S. pressure by putting a hold on the country's nuclear programme.

At a press conference late Tuesday he blamed government "fascism" for the strike-related deaths of six people across the country. He said police had thrown one PML worker from the roof of a building in the city of Gujranwala.

"It will be difficult for us to keep our workers cool now," he said.

Mr. Sharif claimed police had arrested 20,000 opposition leaders and workers, including national and provincial deputies. The government has denied making such mass arrests.

Mr. Sharif launched his movement to topple the government on Sept. 11, touring the country by train. He called for a nationwide commercial shutdown on Sept. 20 and sponsored rallies and demonstrations on Sept. 29.

## Hawke-Keating feud erupts again

CANBERRA (R) — The political bitterness between former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and the man who toppled him from power, Paul Keating, has erupted again, with both accusing each other of lying.

In the latest barrage, Mr. Hawke went on television Wednesday to respond to a claim by Mr. Keating late Tuesday that Mr. Hawke lied in his memoirs about the details of a meeting the two had in 1990 about the Gulf War.

"I'm not going to cop that — now stop it, Paul," Mr. Hawke said in a television interview. "Don't tell lies."

"The record shows that you're lying. Get on with running the country — that's what your job is, not trying to rewrite history," he added.

In an interview with ABC Radio late Tuesday, Mr. Keating launched a blistering attack on Mr. Hawke, as well as the conservative opposition parties, saying Mr.

Hawke lacked the courage to take tough decisions and had lied about what Mr. Keating said during the Gulf War meeting.

In his memoirs published in August, Mr. Hawke said Mr. Keating had argued against Australia's involvement in the U.S.-led coalition which went on to defeat Iraq in the Gulf War.

Mr. Keating, who used to be one of Mr. Hawke's closest confidants, topped Mr. Hawke in a party room coup in late 1991.

Mr. Hawke's criticism of Mr. Keating in the memoirs was stinging, but until now Mr. Keating has refused to respond.

That self-restraint collapsed Tuesday, with Mr. Keating saying Mr. Hawke had lied in the memoirs and that he had favoured Australia's involvement in the Gulf War and in fact led the discussion on Australia's response.

Mr. Keating was Mr. Hawke's deputy prime minister at the time.

"Now, Bob Hawke parades himself around as somebody who sort of backed the Americans in," Mr. Keating told ABC Radio.

"He wanted to put them there (in the Gulf), I don't deny that. But, like a lot of things Hawke wanted to do, he never had the courage to say so when it mattered and he didn't on that occasion and he hasn't since."

Mr. Hawke responded by saying his memoirs were based on notes taken by officials and stood by the account as published in his memoirs.

In the interview, Mr. Keating, infamous for his blistering attacks on opponents and his vicious invective in parliament, called opposition leader Alexander Downer a "gutless... silly little thing," and another opposition parliamentarian as "a piece of parliamentary filth."

## Magellan begins death dive towards Venus

PASADENA, Calif. (R) — The Magellan spacecraft began its death dive into the superheated atmosphere of Venus Tuesday, the U.S. space agency said.

The space probe will attempt one last experiment before it disintegrates in Venus's atmosphere in a dramatic end to a \$900 million, five-year mission, researchers said.

The probe successfully completed three manoeuvres Tuesday, each one lowering its orbit a few kilometres closer to Venus, Jim Doyle, a

spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said.

The Magellan probe was due to carry out a fourth manoeuvre, and probably a fifth, later Tuesday, putting it in an orbit about 145 kilometres above Venus's surface, Mr. Doyle said.

When the probe reaches its final orbit, scientists aim to carry out one last experiment. They will test how much power it takes to keep the spacecraft stable to

gather data on how spacecraft react to a very thin atmosphere, Mr. Doyle said.

After a day or so in its final orbit, the Magellan probe is expected to be pulled gradually closer to Venus and finally be torn apart by the intense heat.

"When it comes down, all we'll know is the radio went silent and probably disintegrated," Mr. Doyle said. He said the probe will probably melt or boil rather than burst into flames as it descends.

## Shuttle Endeavour lands in California

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The space shuttle Endeavour and its six astronauts landed safely in California Tuesday after clouds spoiled their Florida homecoming at the end of an 11-day environmental research mission.

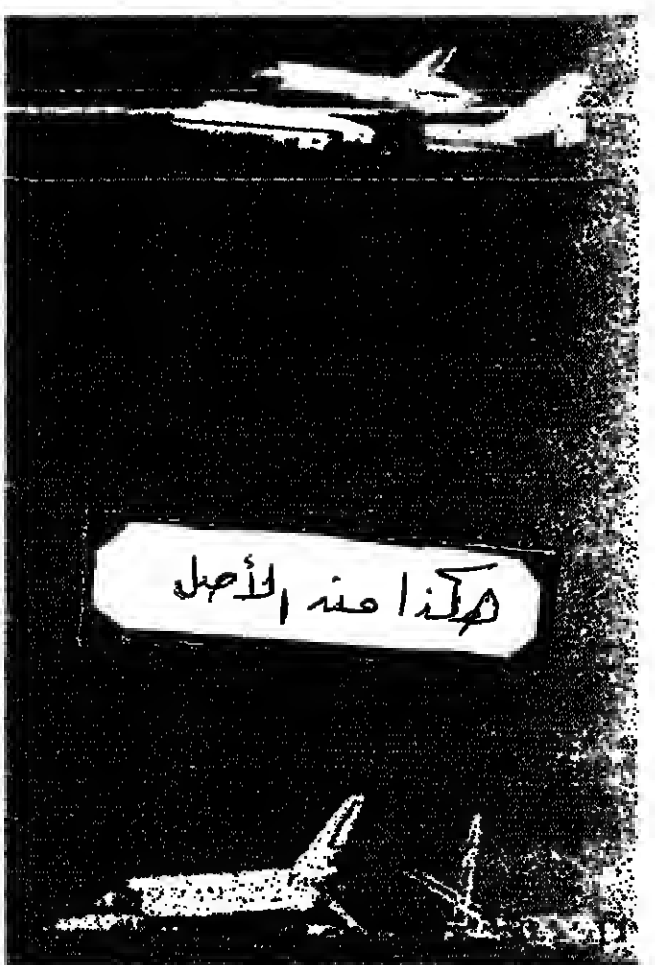
Endeavour touched down under clear skies at 1:02 p.m. EDT (1702 GMT) at Edwards Air Force base after 183 orbits and a journey of 4.7 million miles (7.6 million km).

"You and your crew have done a great job and made a significant contribution to the mission to planet Earth," mission control's Ken Cockrell told shuttle Commander Michael Baker as Endeavour popped a red, white and blue parachute and rolled to a stop on the Mojave Desert runway.

The trouble-free landing capped a similarly smooth flight in which the crew used a sophisticated radar system to capture the changing face of Earth in digital pictures.

The mission produced a bevy of data — including numerous images of the Klyuchevskaya Volcano on the Kamchatka peninsula, in Russia's far east, which erupted on liftoff day and quickly became one of the prime scientific targets.

The shuttle was scheduled to return to the Kennedy Space Centre, where its radar-mapping odyssey began on Sept. 30. NASA opted for a 3,000-mile (4,800 km) detour because the Florida runway was obscured by thickening clouds when the shuttle was to begin its 55-



The space shuttle Columbia (top) piggybacks on a Boeing 747 as it flies over the space shuttle Endeavour shortly after Endeavour landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California after an 11 day mission. The Columbia shuttle was on its way to nearby Palmdale, California for repairs (AFP photo)

minute descent.

In orbit, the crew worked in two shifts around the clock surveying Earth with the space radar laboratory, a \$384 million complement of two radars and an air pollution monitor.

It was the second flight of the laboratory since April, and the first for Endeavour's Ozone Monitoring Experiment. The mission was to detect ozone depletion during the shuttle's 11-day mission.

## Clinton woos car workers on campaign swing

DEARBORN, Michigan (R) — Buoyed by public acclaim for his toughness in the Gulf, President Bill Clinton began a political blitzkrieg with tough anti-Republican rhetoric Tuesday in an effort to hold down Democratic losses in next month's elections.

Speaking to workers at a Ford Mustang plant as he started a one-day visit to America's industrial heartland, Mr. Clinton said voters would decide Nov. 8 between going forward or returning to Republican policies of the 1980s that brought "the worst job growth since the great depression."

"No one would want us to go back to the days when we exported jobs, not products. No one would want to go back to the days when our deficit was exploding and our economy was going down hill."

"That is exactly the decision that all of you are going to have to make on Nov. 8 — whether we keep going in the right direction or go back to the 1980s and trickle-down economics," Mr. Clinton said.

Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives are being contested in the elections. Thirty-six of the 50 state governors will also be chosen.

Republicans need to pick up 40 seats to take control of the House for the first time since 1954, and win an additional seven seats in the Senate pickup to become the



U.S. President Bill Clinton speaks to workers at the Ford Dearborn assembly after a tour of the plant in Michigan. President Clinton came to Michigan to give his support to Michigan's Democratic Senate candidates (AFP photo)

majority party there for the first time since 1986.

Because the party that controls the White House traditionally loses power in Congress in non-presidential elections, because anti-incumbent fever is running high and because the Democratic president is unpopular, Republicans are expected to make significant gains.

That would make it harder for Mr. Clinton to govern the country and win re-election in 1996.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton said he sympathised with voter anger. But he urged Americans not just to think of their discontent with the system.

Praising the U.S. car industry for bouncing back to a position of world pre-eminence, Mr. Clinton continued: "I want to say to you that the fight you have fought is the fight I am fighting for America."

"I want us to be number one again. I want us to be

able to compete and win in the 21st century. I don't want our children to be the first generation of Americans to do worse than their parents, and I believe the future can be the best time America has ever had if we have the discipline, the courage and the vision to stick with it," he said.

Mr. Clinton made no mention of his military buildup in the Gulf region to counter a massing of Iraqi troops near Kuwait. But in later remarks to reporters he said he was "hopeful" about a reported Iraqi withdrawal of troops from the Kuwaiti border.

As he left Washington earlier Tuesday, he had said there was no evidence Iraq was pulling back however.

"Our deployments in the Gulf region are continuing today. There has been no change in the pattern of Iraqi activity from (Monday), so we will continue our deployments," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton's muscular flexing has drawn editorial plaudits that could help him politically.

"Provided the crisis is now defused with no Americans killed, the episode could turn out to be a pre-election gift. The president has reassured a nervous public that, when clearly and urgently needed, he can project force decisively and effectively," the New York Times said.

Mr. Clinton pollster Stan Greenberg predicted the president's attack on Republicans would also pay off.

## Condom Cafe shut down by Filipino authorities

MANILA (AFP) — Municipal authorities in the Philippine financial district of Makati ordered the closure of the controversial "Condom Cafe" just a day after it opened to the public, an official said here Wednesday.

Makati administrator Nicenor Santiago said the cafe, which purports to stimulate discussion about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), was closed because it lacked an "occupancy permit" that is required of any new establishment. But he also admitted that even if such a permit were obtained, Makati officials would still throw up other roadblocks to the cafe's opening such as lack of clearance from the district and the need for a public hearing on the "alleged vulgarity" of the place. The Condom Cafe was set up by ReachOut, an anti-AIDS group which also operates an information centre at the same venue. Makati officials have put up obstacles against its operation, saying it has an offensive name and interior decor. Despite the absence of an official permit, the cafe opened Monday.

Local residents however staged a picket protest on the cafe's launch date and threatened to force it out of the district.

At a press conference late Tuesday he blamed government "fascism" for the strike-related deaths of six people across the country. He said police had thrown one PML worker from the roof of a building in the city of Gujranwala.

"It will be difficult for us to keep our workers cool now," he said.

Mr. Sharif claimed police had arrested 20,000 opposition leaders and workers, including national and provincial deputies. The government has denied making such mass arrests.

Mr. Sharif launched his movement to topple the government on Sept. 11, touring the country by train. He called for a nationwide commercial shutdown on Sept. 20 and sponsored rallies and demonstrations on Sept. 29.

Mr. Keating was Mr. Hawke's deputy prime minister at the time.

"Now, Bob Hawke parades himself around as somebody who sort of backed the Americans in," Mr. Keating told ABC Radio.

"He wanted to put them there (in the Gulf), I don't deny that. But, like a lot of things Hawke wanted to do, he never had the courage to say so when it mattered and he didn't on that occasion and he hasn't since."

Mr. Hawke responded by saying his memoirs were based on notes taken by officials and stood by the account as published in his memoirs.

In the interview, Mr. Keating, infamous for his blistering attacks on opponents and his vicious invective in parliament, called opposition leader Alexander Downer a "gutless... silly little thing," and another opposition parliamentarian as "a piece of parliamentary filth."

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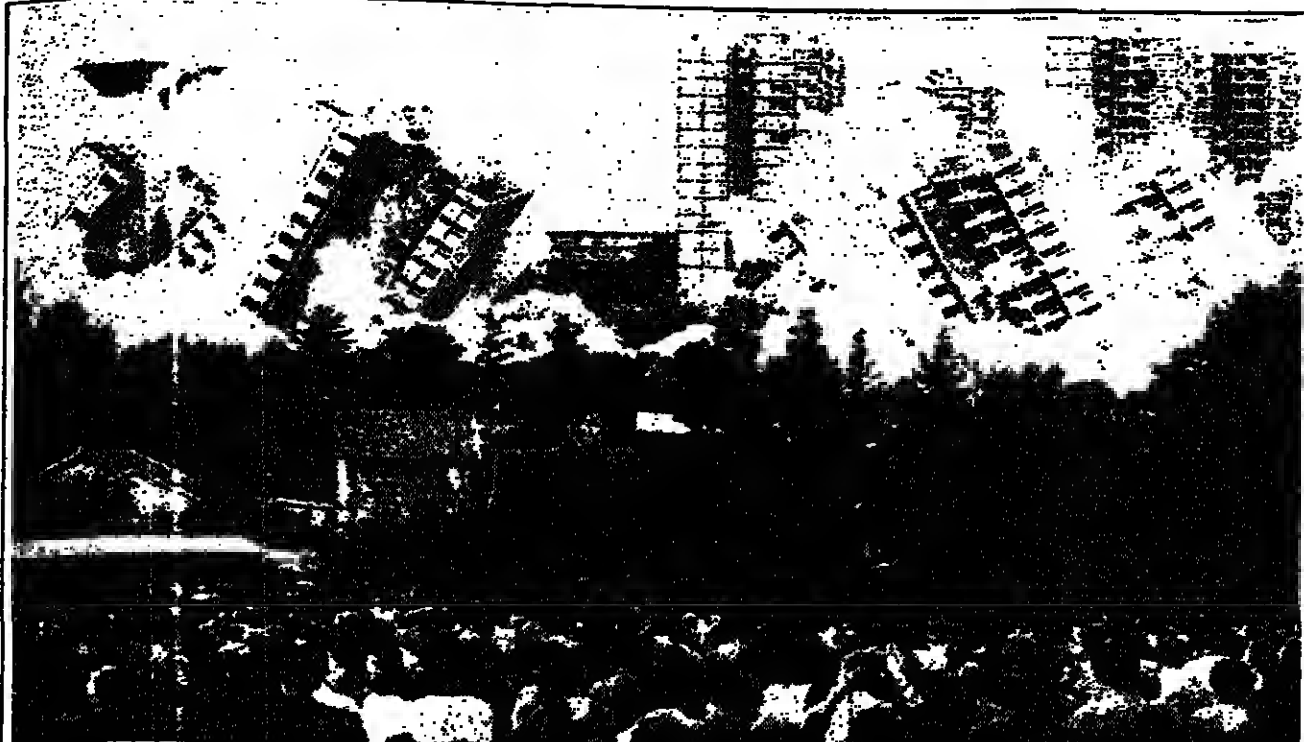
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NOW YOU SEE THEM. NOW YOU DON'T: Four tower blocks at Vénissieux, a suburb of Lyons, France, are

demolished by explosives, watched by crowds of spectators (AFP photo)

## NATO to brief U.N. on Bosnia air strikes

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO will send envoys to the United Nations within the next few days to underscore its determination that the decision-making process before air strikes in Bosnia must be improved, a diplomat said Wednesday.

The statement came after a senior U.N. official said that the United Nations wanted NATO airpower in Bosnia to be more efficient but bad quality about giving it a freer hand to respond to attacks by the Bosnian Serbs.

The U.N. official said the NATO delegation was expected in New York Thursday or Friday to pursue discussions on the issue that was first raised in a letter sent Friday to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

The delegation will be headed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Deputy Secretary General Anthony Cragg, according to officials in Brussels.

NATO will "firmly" make its point during the New York talks, the diplomat said.

Dr. Ghali has asked to be represented by Kofi Annan, head of the U.N. Department for Peacekeeping Operations, who is currently in Europe.

French General Bertrand De Lapresle, commander of the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia, will also attend the talks at which the U.N. was expected to make a counterproposal.

Commenting on ongoing negotiations with NATO, the official said in New York the world body was in principle opposed to NATO's request to call strikes against multiple targets without giving advance warnings to the warring factions on the ground.

But the diplomat here said the United Nations had "not officially or unofficially taken position" on NATO's request.

Dr. Ghali has written NATO saying its request for a freer hand to Bosnia was giving him problems, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Any NATO air strike must be linked to a specific violation, and both the U.N. and NATO must previously agree

on the targets, the official added.

NATO air strikes against four or more targets with no advance warning to UNPROFOR would be dangerous, another senior official said.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo was suspended for several hours Wednesday after three planes were hit by bullets and mortar rounds landed near the airport.

U.N. officials said the airlift was to resume around mid-day, and nine humanitarian flights instead of the 25 originally scheduled were expected to arrive Wednesday.

Two U.N. Protection Force planes and one U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plane were shot at Tuesday. The marks were noticed only after the planes returned to base, and it was not known who fired or where from.

Late Tuesday, four mortar rounds landed in the airport area, two of them very close to the runway, said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UNHCR in Zagreb.

At least two of the shells were believed to have come from government-held territory, said Maj. Hervé Gourmelon, a U.N. military spokesman in Sarajevo. A protest was to be sent to the Bosnian army.

Maj. Gourmelon reported increased combat throughout Bosnia. Heavy fighting raged in an area north of Sarajevo where more than 600 artillery impacts were registered Tuesday.

On Monday, Bosnian deputy commander Gen. Jovan Divjak had claimed that Bosnian Serb forces launched an offensive in the Cerniske Hills in the same area in an attempt to cut off the main supply road to northern Bosnia.

Fighting also was reported in the area of Doboj, where more than 350 artillery rounds were exchanged Tuesday between government and Serb forces. No casualties were reported.

Maj. Gourmelon also said some 300 artillery impacts were registered in the southwestern Mostar, mostly fired from the Bosnian Serb side.

## Kagame: Former Rwandan troops being rehabilitated

KIGALI (AFP) — Officers and soldiers of the former Rwandan army who have returned to their country are undergoing a "political education" by the country's new government.

Defence Minister and Deputy President Paul Kagame said Wednesday.

Gen. Kagame, speaking during a press conference, also rejected recent accusations by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that soldiers from the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) have massacred thousands of Hutus since July.

He said the UNHCR was spreading "outrageous and irresponsible" rumours that have kept refugees from returning to the country while, he added, the UNHCR continues receiving funds for their care in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

"Maybe it (UNHCR) doesn't get money if it doesn't have refugees," he said.

Speaking about the rehabilitation of the former soldiers into the ranks of the new Patriotic Rwandan Army (PRA), and offshoot of the RPF, Gen. Kagame said they were attending seminars aimed at giving them a political education they lacked.

"We want to give them a political education and later on we will integrate them," he said. "There was a lack of that on the part of the former

government forces and that's why they participated in killing innocent civilians."

He said the Hutu soldiers are numerous and are housed in military camps that are "not refugee camps nor prisons."

Gen. Kagame added that the new government aims to maintain a strong army even though there is no money to fund such a force and soldiers have not been paid in four years.

"We can afford it," he said. "We have maintained a strong army, even though there is no money to fund such a force and soldiers have not been paid in four years."

"We can afford it," he said. "We have maintained an unpaid army for the last four years and we can hang on for another four years because our soldiers know what they fought for."

He added that he was disappointed with the lack of international financial assistance since the end of the inter-ethnic conflict that claimed the lives of up to one million of the country's 7.9 million pre-war population.

"There is no money... but we are here to stay," he said. As to relations with France, which has been accused of backing the former Hutu-led government, Gen. Kagame said he hopes to "normalise" relations.

"I don't want to be pessimistic," he said.

## Poll: Kohl's coalition will win

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition will be narrowly reelected Sunday, according to a poll published Wednesday by the leading Allensbach Institute.

The poll gave Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats 42 per cent of the vote and 8 per cent to his junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats. It cited no margin of error but this is generally taken to be about 3 per cent.

Polls since the summer have shown growing support for Mr. Kohl's coalition as undecided voters choose the chancellor and his allies, but Wednesday's poll was one of the few putting the coalition's total at 50 per cent or more.

Only one recent poll has shown the Free Democrats scoring under 5 per cent, the threshold they need to cross to enter parliament.

Should the Free Democrats score under 5 per cent, Mr. Kohl probably would be ousted, either by a leftwing coalition of the Social Democrats and Alliance 90/The Greens, or by the formation of a so-called grand coalition of his Christian Democrats

and the Social Democrats. Mr. Kohl has shown no interest in leading such a coalition.

The Allensbach poll showed 3.9 per cent support for the former East German communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism or PDS, down from 4.5 per cent in last week's poll.

The poll gave 34.9 per cent to the Social Democrats and 8.1 per cent to the Greens.

The PDS has a strong chance to return to the Bonn parliament after Sunday's general election and could come back with up to 30 deputies, opinion pollsters said on Wednesday.

But two of the three seats in East Berlin that the party of Democratic Socialism must win to ensure its return are too close to call, they told Reuters.

The balance of power in Bonn could depend on whether the PDS wins the three seats and qualifies for a loophole that would let them claim over two dozen seats.

PDS prospects have become a key focus of attention in the campaign because a strong showing could end up

blocking Chancellor Kohl from winning another absolute majority.

"My theory is that they won't get the five per cent, but I assume they will win at least three constituencies," said Torsten Schneider-Haase of the Emnid Polling Institute.

Like the other pollsters, he added: "The race for the PDS is too close to call."

Several recent surveys saw Mr. Kohl's coalition just short of an absolute majority but others gave him an absolute majority.

Schneider-Haase and Richard Hilmer of Infratest Burke Berlin GMBH said the PDS has been polling a steady 4.4 to 4.5 per cent support nationwide in recent weeks.

PDS support has hovered between 17 and 20 per cent in the east, where the so-called "losers of unity" have rallied behind the party they believe best represents the region's interests.

The party has been stuck between 0.5 and 1.0 per cent in the more populous west, they said. PDS leaders had earlier been counting on win-

ning between 1.5 and 2.0 per cent in the west.

With less than one-fifth of the population in the east, the PDS would need 20 per cent in the east and one per cent in the west to surpass the five per cent hurdle.

Meanwhile Klaus Kinkel approaches the German general election a worried man. Foreign minister and president of the Free Democrats (FDP), he can expect to lose both posts if his party flops as it has in regional elections over the last year.

Mr. Kinkel has been president of the FDP since June 1993, having joined the little liberal party only in February 1991, although he had long been close to the liberals.

He has been foreign minister in the centre-right coalition led by Chancellor Kohl and the Christian Union parties since April 1992, taking over from the veteran minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the former FDP leader whose mantle he effectively inherited after serving Mr. Genscher as an advisor since 1970.

A keen tennis player looking considerably younger than his 57 years, Mr. Kinkel has been an energetic and effective foreign minister, advancing the united Germany's diplomacy in Europe and the world with logic and purpose and in accordance with Western interests.

But it is part of his had luck that Germany's presidency of the European Union, which has kept him especially busy since July, coincides with a difficult election campaign for the FDP.

In a separate development, under Rodolf Scharping, the Social Democrats have regained credibility as a party of government, but observers still doubt his leadership is sufficiently inspired to make him the next chancellor.

What Scharping has going for him, however, is perseverance and pragmatism.



The German Social Democratic Party's Gerhard Schröder, Oskar Lafontaine and Rudolf Scharping (Left to Right) applaud their colleague Johannes Rau following his speech at the SPD's election campaign event in Dortmund which is to be followed by a major appearance in Berlin on Oct. 15 on the eve of the German general elections.

## Berlusconi government to adopt law on 'blind trust'

ROME (Agencies) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told the senate Wednesday that the next cabinet meeting will adopt a proposal for a "blind trust" to take over running his media empire in order to avoid a conflict of interest while he is premier.

He told the lawmakers that the "blind trust" proposal would go before parliament for approval and that his cabinet would abide by the lawmaker's decision on the issue.

Mr. Berlusconi, who is to head to Moscow at the end of

the week, did not say when the next cabinet meeting would take place.

The proposal was contained in a report by senior government advisers calling for a "blind trust" to take over running Fininvest while Mr. Berlusconi is prime minister.

Under the proposal now being discussed by the Senate's Constitutional Affairs Committee, Mr. Berlusconi would not be obliged to sell off his business interests but would have to devolve their administration to a trust monitored by existing busi-

ness and media watchdogs.

Mr. Berlusconi Wednesday also said that "his government had nothing to fear from the Italian justice system," in discussing an ongoing controversy with anti-graft judges who have seized financial records involving Fininvest.

In a battling speech to a stormy session of the Senate, the media magnate-turned-politician also defended his Fininvest business empire, whose dealings have come under investigation, saying it was the cleanest company in Italy.

"This government has nothing to fear from justice," Mr. Berlusconi said.

A senior member of Mr. Berlusconi's government said Wednesday in a published interview that he believed Mr. Berlusconi would sell all or part of his media-based Fininvest group.

But it "will be his own choice," said Defence Minister Cesare Previti. Mr. Berlusconi's former lawyer, in the interview with the daily Corriere Della Sera. He said the issue was not one which could be resolved quickly.

## China may be developing new nuclear weapons — IISS

LONDON (R) — China, which conducted another nuclear test last week despite a moratorium agreed by other big powers, may be developing new nuclear weapons, a leading international institute said Wednesday.

The test was China's third in a year and brought expressions of protest and regret from countries. China has had nuclear weapons for 30 years but maintains only a small arsenal.

The annual report on global military power from the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), published Wednesday, was prepared before the latest Chinese detonation. But it covered earlier nuclear tests carried out in June and October 1993.

"An assessment of the yields of the tests and of previous tests suggests that a number of new nuclear weapons are being developed," the report said.

It said the explosion last year had a yield of between 50 and 100 kilotonnes — an expression of the power of the weapon — while the June test was smaller, between 10 and 60 kilotonnes. In 1992, China tested a much larger weapon, equivalent to nine million tonnes of explosive.

"The differences in yields tested suggest that a number of new weapons are being developed," the IISS said.

The IISS said Russia's armed forces, struggling with major defence cuts, now number less than two million, and most army units are operating at less than half strength.

The institute said in its annual report, "the military Balance 1994-95," that Russian Armed Forces currently totalled 1.7 million — much lower than the official figure of just above two million.

Cuts below the two million level have been ordered by President Boris Yeltsin despite a plea from Defence

Minister Pavel Grachev, who said earlier this year Russia's security could be compromised if the armed forces were cut back too much.

The IISS figure compares with a Red Army that was almost three times that size. The Soviet Union had 4.25 million men under arms before it started making cuts in 1988.

Western military experts say the Russian army suffers from problems of morale following the loss of Soviet satellite states, corruption, poor discipline and draft-dodging. Troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe and the Baltic states have been completed.

"The IISS estimates Russian military manpower to be about 1,714,000, some 216,000 less than 12 months ago," said the report.

Of that total, 950,000 were conscripts.

"The report said 'no combat formations, including airborne and the divisions earmarked for peacekeeping, have more than 75 per cent of their authorised strength and roughly 70 per cent divisions have less than 50 per cent.'"

Soviet Armed Forces traditionally kept some units under full strength and depended on reservists to fill the ranks in times of crisis, but not to the extent now prevalent in Russia.

The IISS report — which details military strength around the world — also said the Russian Navy, with major bases around Murmansk and in Vladivostok, was in trouble.

"A number of naval ships have been retired in the last 12 months and the operational serviceability of others must be in doubt," it said.

In the past year, it added, Russia had retired from service 25 tactical submarines, nine surface combat ships, 20 patrol craft and 20 mine countermeasure vessels.

The IISS said it was difficult to establish reliable figures for Russian defence

spending, partly because some items were hidden in other areas of the national budget.

But it estimated the defence budget at \$78 billion this year and added: "The Russian defence budget has declined in real terms by over 40 per cent compared to the 1989 Soviet budget."

The decline was partly due to the breakup of the Soviet Union, which stripped revenue from Russia.

Despite the decline of the armed forces, the IISS said Russia remained a formidable military power.

In any global comparison, Russian military expenditure remains in real terms substantially higher than that of any country apart from the USA," it said.

U.S. defence policy over the past 12 months has been characterised by "change and uncertainty" engendered by retirement and resignation at the very top of the military command, according to the report.

The IISS noted the retirement of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell and the "forced retirement" of Secretary of Defence Les Aspin.

Those key personnel changes, it said, followed publication of the so-called "Bottom-Up Review," of which Mr. Aspin's successor William Perry was a primary formulator.

The review, which calls for cuts in all armed services except the Marine Corps by 1999, is based, says the IISS, on "the assessment that the U.S. must be capable of fighting and winning two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts," for example, another Gulf War and a Korean War at the same time.

The theory is not, said the report, that "two such conflicts are expected to erupt simultaneously, but because, should the U.S. embark on one conflict, it must have sufficient force available to

deter a second from a breaking out."

Under a conventional force restructuring, said the IISS, the U.S. Atlantic Command (USLANTCOM), originally a purely naval command, has been re-established as a Joint Service Command with the new acronym USACOM and with greatly increased responsibilities.

Principal victims of the bottom-up cuts, said the IISS, will be "two active and one reserve army division, three active and four reserve air force wings, 55 surface ships and submarines, one aircraft carrier and one active and one reserve naval air wing."

"Procurement projects cancelled included the Advanced Fighter Experimental (AFX), the Multi-Role fighter, and the production F-16 aircraft after 1994 and the F/A-18CD naval aircraft after 1997," it said.

Despite \$107 billion in savings from bottom-up cuts vis-a-vis what the previous Republican administration had wanted to spend, defence will still cost \$13 billion more than the current administration had planned through 1999, said the IISS. Total defence expenditure 1995-99 is planned at \$1.23 trillion, said the report.

### Conflicts continue in Europe

Civil conflicts continue to wrack Europe in the wake of the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the IISS said.

On the three-way struggle in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the IISS said the "most remarkable developments" were the establishment of a U.N. police heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo and the accord between Croats and Muslims on a federation.

But the IISS warned, "should the combination of a Serbian blockade and intensified U.N. sanctions fail to

achieve Bosnian Serb acceptance of the peace plan, then the lifting of the arms embargo to allow the arming of the Bosnian government will be difficult to avoid despite the reservations held by a number of U.N. troop contributors."

In the Caucasus, the report said the situation in Georgia had much improved, with an end to all three conflicts of the last few years in sight. A ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh had held more firmly, though both Armenia and Azerbaijan had expanded their armed forces.

But the war between the Turkish government and Kurdish rebels was no nearer a solution, and in fact had worsened, the IISS said. Casualty figures were mounting every week, from 2,600 dead on each side in 1992 to more than 4,000 last year, while the number of troops deployed had risen from 90,000 to 160,000.

Civil war continued unabated in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka the past 12 months, and there was a sign of an end to violence in Kashmir while the internal situation in India improved, according to the IISS.

The report said that fighting in Afghanistan centred around the capital Kabul. In addition, Tajikistan rebels who entered Afghanistan in 1993 continued to carry out small-scale attacks on border posts, and clashed with Tajikistan and Russian forces.

"India's internal situation has showed a marked improvement over the last 12 months," said the IISS.

"Despite the continuing strife in Kashmir, the Indian army's presence there 'has been reduced and the plan to increase the strength of the paramilitary 'Rashtriya' or national rifles... will allow further withdrawals."

"India continues to accuse Pakistan of interfering in its internal affairs, particularly

by supplying arms and funding foreign mercenaries in Kashmir," said the report. "Pakistan denies the charges, but continues to advocate Kashmiri self-determination."

Violence has "virtually ended" in Punjab, it said, although the political situation "is far from stable."

In Northeastern Sri Lanka, the guerrilla war being waged by Tamil rebels "shows no sign of ending, with both sides continuing to suffer heavy casualties."

While Burma remains under military rule and the opposition leader, Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under house arrest, most of the insurgency campaigns active for 30 years appeared to be dwindling, said the report.

The key remaining insurgency groups, Shan Mong Tasi Army in the north and the Kareo and Mon groups in the southeast "no longer have to battle with the government and have turned their attention with great success to the drug trade," it said.

The IISS also cites a "rap-prochement" between Burma and China which "had led Burma's air force to acquire 'significant numbers of Chinese aircraft.'"

Africans killed each other in large numbers with relatively primitive weapons over the past year, the IISS said, noting that seven of the world's 30 civil conflicts were raging on the continent.

"Few major new weapons systems have been acquired by African states, but when killing is usually accomplished by machine-gun, hand grenade and machete, this is little consolation," the IISS said.

These ranged from the massacres of hundreds of thousands in Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi, to the nearly 20-year-old war in Angola, a long with Somalia and Sudan, and the less intense conflict in Djibouti.



Unarmed French and Egyptian U.N. soldiers take turns riding the train in Sarajevo as a deterrent to sniping when the trains resumed operation. The trains began operating again Wednesday after an incident on Saturday in which 1 person was killed and 11 wounded by snipers (AFP photo).



## Jordan Times

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## New stage or wrong act?

ISRAEL IS wrong to suspend peace talks with the Palestinian side because Hamas claimed responsibility for kidnapping an Israeli soldier. This shortsighted Israeli reaction is simply playing into the hands of extremism which would like nothing more than interrupting the entire peace process and bring it to a halt. Israel has over the years deployed all its might against Palestinian extremists but without any visible success. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is barely standing on its feet and cannot be expected to wrest control over unruly elements overnight.

The latest spate of killings in Jerusalem was indeed condemned in no uncertain terms by Nabil Shaath and Ahmad Tibi, as well as Arafat himself, and it is therefore clear where the PNA stands on the issue of killing of innocent people, whether Israelis or Arabs.

Hamas's decision to kidnap an Israeli soldier and its offer to exchange him for Hamas and Jihad members still in Israeli prisons should not be rewarded by stopping peace negotiations with the PLO, especially at the current critical stage. The PLO-Israel talks in Cairo have centred on Palestinian elections and the composition and mandate of the projected Palestinian council. It would appear that failure to conclude a deal on these thorny issues would threaten to undermine the negotiations without any of the two sides doing so each time an extremist group strikes against the other party. It would be an act of utter folly to react in such a manner whenever hardliners on either side attack the peace process by taking the lives of Palestinians and Israelis. True, the PNA should strive to ensure total security, but before it can be expected to tackle this very difficult task it should be assisted to acquire strength and technical knowhow on how it is done. With the international community still dragging its feet in honouring its financial commitment to the Palestinian side, the Palestinian police force cannot be but ill-equipped to handle the awesome security problems facing not only Israel but also that of the Palestinian people themselves.

We believe that the best antidote to killings and kidnapping of the sort that the area has witnessed over the past few days is to speed up the negotiating process rather than slowing it down to a standstill. Mr. Rabin therefore should reconsider his latest stance and accept to accelerate the Cairo peace parleys as a matter of highest priority.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Wednesday criticised Jordanian writers and columnists who, he said, were contributing towards further worsening of relations between Jordan and the Gulf states through their writings. With or without due cause, some writers in the press continue to poison relations between Arab states at a time when the Jordanian government is trying to mend fences with all Arabs, said Mohammad Subeishi. These writers, he added, are causing severe damage to Jordan's economic and trade ties with the Gulf states, which employ thousands of Jordanians and contribute towards partially solving Jordan's unemployment problem. Every time relations between Jordan and the Gulf states tend to improve, these writers launch campaigns instead to poison these relations and delay improvement of ties and adversely affect Jordan's exports, said the writer. He said that by these hostile campaigns in the press these writers are dealing a devastating blow to the national economy. The writer called for a journalistic code of honour to help ensure journalists' commitment to the Jordanian laws.

IT IS rather ironic to see the United States directing its efforts towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means while at the same time massing an armada to launch strikes against Iraq in a bid to settle the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict by force, said Ahmad Mislleh, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said while Baghdad announced withdrawal of its troops from the border areas with Kuwait, U.S. President Bill Clinton insists that his forces should deter the Iraqis from ever trying to rid themselves of the sufferings caused by the U.N. embargo. Washington is clearly following double standard policies which are bound to cause tension that could lead to conflicts. As Jordan is keen on achieving a lasting peace in the whole area, said the writer, it calls on the United States administration to avoid double standard policies which are bound to backfire.

## The View from Academia

## Our residential homes: More rythm, more taste, more style

RESIDENTIAL HOMES in western Amman and (to a lesser degree) other equally privileged areas in the Kingdom, despite some unnecessarily exaggerated and extravagant features, are no doubt aesthetically appealing and architecturally enriching. By contrast, residential homes in the less fortunate parts of Amman and the other Jordanian towns and cities are extremely uninteresting, unexciting and ugly.

On the one hand, we do feel grateful. Less than two decades ago, the whole country had very little to offer. Aside from a handful of some old and some modern, there was hardly anything worth looking at.

I still distinctly remember the sense of hollowness I experienced when an American friend of mine took me on an architectural excursion in the vicinity of the University of Chicago in the early eighties. We spent a couple of hours viewing a few residential homes off the university campus. He pointed out to me in impressive detail the different styles of building, the pattern to which each style belonged, its history, its origin, its many variations, etc. He had so much to say about the overall design, the windows, the terraces, the porches, the roofs. I was delighted, enlightened and somewhat overwhelmed.

I could not help wondering, however, what if this friend came to visit me in Amman and expected to be taken on a similar tour? What would I show him, and what would I say? First of all, I could not say much. Like the vast majority of my generation, I knew very little architecture. We were not taught anything about the subject in school (we were too busy memorising how much cotton Egypt produced every year and how much money it got in return) and none in my neighbourhood was even vaguely interested in architecture. Secondly, what was there to see? The houses looked like boxes, the windows were square, and the doors were rectangular. Thank you and good night.

Today, one could see a lot and say a lot. Several parts of Amman are truly interesting, to say the least. One could, depending on one's competence in the exciting world of house design and construction, comment at length on the overall form, the quality and shape of the stone, the roof,

the terrace, the garage, the lawn, the sidewalk, the chimney, the window, etc. Things have changed dramatically.

On the other hand, we have a long way to go. More than half of Amman and two-thirds of the Kingdom (at least) reflect hardly any taste and any style. A friend from abroad, who has just moved into the country, said to me the other day: "There is not one single house worth looking at from Queen Alia Airport to Aqaba." True indeed. One could respond, however, by saying that most of the territory referred to in this friend's statement is desert. Yes. But the claim is valid and the judgment it implies applies perfectly to most of eastern, southern and northern Amman, to nine-tenths of Zarqa, three-fourths of Irbid, three-fourths of Karak, Salt, Ajloun, Jerash, Mafraq and the country-side.

What all of these areas lack is style and character. One could argue of course, like most of those who live in such places do, that for most people a house is essentially a shelter. What most low-income families seek is a comfortable house, not an attractive one. Says a tenant from eastern Amman, and his opinion is quite typical: "I dream of having a house of my own. I am sick and tired of paying rent to a landlord who hates my guts. He thinks he could get triple the amount I pay him. I do not care where I live or what shape or colour the house is, as long as it is mine." Clearly, poor people cannot afford to decorate and beautify.

Well, sure. But an aesthetically appealing house is not necessarily an expensive house. One does not have to import marble from Italy or the most expensive kind of stone to build a handsome house. No. All one needs are a few small touches here and there. Let's use the same material we are using, and the same amount of money. But let's play a little with the design, highlight a feature here and a feature there, use some attractive colours. Low income or poverty ought not to be synonymous to ugliness, vulgarity, or chaotic performance. Tasteful simplicity is beautiful.

In my opinion, the problem is not in financial resources

and is not in the construction material. One can build a spectacular palace out of mud. The problem, rather, lies in the attitude. In other words, people have the means and the material, but they do not have it in their minds to devote some attention and time to the shape, design and colour. Either they do not think about these latter three elements or they think it is extremely costly to build a somewhat attractive house, which is not true. The same friend who commented on the territory from the airport to Aqaba has been to Sanaa recently. He is shocked to find how primitive the city still is in comparison with cities of the 20th century, but he is impressed by the looks of the houses. They are simple, but they have a unique style and characters. I have looked at some of the pictures he has brought back with him. The houses are indeed incredible. Every detail is interesting. The ancient and the modern look exactly alike. Well, if Sanaa can do it, can't we?

Three steps need to be taken if we want to upgrade the architectural quality of housing in the so-called popular areas in the Kingdom:

1. We need to create consciousness among our citizens with respect to the aesthetic value of shelters. This can be done through the media and through courses offered to students at schools and universities. Most people build the way they build because they do not know any better. Educate them and the taste improves.

2. The concerned authorities (such as the Municipality of Amman) need to demand certain specifications not only regarding area and space but also regarding design and colour. I say "certain" specifications, not "costly" or "unrealistic."

3. We need cosmetic surgery for the many ugly houses which already exist and will be with us for sometime to come. A few touches here and there are better than nothing. There was a time, for instance, when the municipality asked people to paint the concrete houses, whose colour is usually colourless, with white. It was a good idea. I do not know why we stopped demanding it. We want more rythm in our residential homes, more taste, more style. Is this too much to ask?

## Bolstering Cambodia's young state against Khmer Rouge

By Marvin Ott

WASHINGTON — The United States has crossed a foreign policy Rubicon in Indochina. The Clinton administration has quietly agreed to a Cambodian request for defence assistance and sent about 45 military advisers. It is hard to imagine an initiative that raises more specters. Is America about to become embroiled in a new Indochina conflict?

A few years ago, Phnom Penh was a ghost town. The killing field had claimed nearly a quarter of the country's population. Many Cambodians felt that they had been cursed by the gods and abandoned by the world.

Today the capital city is alive with activity. Shops are stocked, children are in school, restaurants and food stalls are busy, foreign businessmen are exploring investment opportunities, and traffic jams are becoming a problem. There are few signs of the classic development pathologies — limousines pushing bicycles to the side of the road, beggars, filth, large, walled mansions adjacent to shantytowns, and environmental abuses. Much of the same, on a reduced scale, can be said of the major provincial towns.

All this is unfolding against the backdrop of a political transformation:

successful national elections, conducted by the United Nations, and the establishment of a coalition government presided over by an ultimate survivor and national symbol, King Norodom Sihanouk. The parliament has emerged as an arena for remarkably open debates. The press is passably free. An active Cambodian human rights organisation tips at the government's heels.

Yet a great many Cambodians are fearful. Serious human rights abuses by some provincial authorities go unpunished and unchecked. A recent coup attempt highlights the fragility of the new political order.

Four months ago, a Khmer Rouge force expelled a disorganised Cambodian army from the provincial town of Pailin. After this, a final attempt to reach a political settlement between the new government and the Khmer Rouge collapsed. Parliament put its seal on the outcome by voting to outlaw the Khmer Rouge.

This is good news. A debilitating illusion that the Khmer Rouge can somehow be accommodated in a political settlement has long hampered prospects for a resolution of the Cambodia problem.

The same small coterie of secretive fanatics who created the killing fields of

Cambodia still lead the Khmer Rouge. The men and the agenda remain the same: to achieve total power and liquidate everything and everyone in Cambodia that might resist the Communisation of the country. The government now seems to understand that there can be only one solution with two variants: elimination of the Khmer Rouge through military defeat or by gradual marginalisation.

Cambodia's leaders also realise that a thorough overhaul of the Cambodian

perhaps 60,000), the percentage of officers drastically reduced and the training and education of officer corps and rank and file given the highest priority.

But any move to rapidly demobilise would cast large numbers of young men with few employable skills into a civilian economy that has no place for them. The inevitable result would be banditry and insecurity, if not a military coup. And any hope to improve training and education of existing personnel founders

A basic lesson of history is that successful strategists anticipate the consequences of intended actions and plan for them — answering the "Then what?" question. For Cambodia, the U.S.-U.N. strategy that produced the Paris accords and national elections was incomplete.

army is a precondition for any satisfactory outcome. The army has been described as the worst in the world. Second Prime Minister Hun Sen calls it "an embarrassment."

About one-third of its nominal 140,000 troops are "ghost soldiers." Nearly 70 per cent of its actual force consists of officers, 2,000 of whom are generals.

Hun Sen and the first prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, agree that the army must be substantially downsized (to

on the dearth of teachers and trainers.

Enter the United States. Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, supported by King Sihanouk, want America to "adopt" three or four Cambodian army battalions and train and equip them for construction work. Then, with U.S. economic assistance, these units could be demobilised and used for road building and other civilian projects.

Washington is providing military construction advisers

ers, graders and bulldozers, and demining specialists. It is an important start, but just a start.

Why should the United States return to the scene of a disastrous and divisive intervention?

Unlike South Vietnam, Cambodia has a government selected through free elections and recognised by the international community. The world has a substantial stake in the outcome in Cambodia because the U.N. effort there, at a cost of more than \$2 billion, remains its most successful.

Cambodia's current leaders generally acknowledge the problems that their government faces and the weakness it exhibits — and show credible indications that they are prepared to adopt necessary remedies.

Most important, the Khmer Rouge are not giants. They are generally confined to a region near the Thai border. A lack of broad popular support undercuts their ambition to launch a war of attrition. The organisation survives because it is disciplined, controls a nearly inaccessible base area, receives cross-border assistance from elements of the Thai army and is opposed by the inept Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

America should not be the only country willing to assist the Cambodian government. What is required

is a multilateral defence assistance programme, orchestrated and led by Washington, to provide training, materiel and non-lethal equipment, plus ammunition and, eventually, small arms.

Towards that end, the State Department has started discussions with other interested countries, notably Australia, France and Indonesia. Under no conditions should foreign combat troops be introduced, nor should Vietnamese assistance be sought.

A basic lesson of history is that successful strategists anticipate the consequences of intended actions and plan for them — answering the "Then what?" question. For Cambodia, the U.S.-U.N. strategy that produced the Paris accords and national elections was incomplete. Hard realities and follow-on-plans were submerged in the euphoria of a successful vote. But the election was only the beginning.

Cambodia has reached a culminating point that requires a new strategy so that what has been gained is not lost. The "then" is now and the "what" is clear.

The writer, who specialises in Asian security issues at the National War College in Washington, contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

## LETTERS

## Protect kids from politics

To the Editor:

THE MASSING of Iraqi troops near the southern borders with Kuwait should not be taken out of context because Iraq, as a sovereign state, has the full right to reposition its army within its boundaries however and whenever it wants without any foreign intervention in its internal affairs. By doing so, Iraq wants to relay a message to the whole world, which has so far given a deaf ear to the Iraqi people's suffering despite Iraq's full observance of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and its cooperation with the United Nations observers.

Iraq's message to the world is that the continuing and prolonged sanctions against the Iraqi people are neither justified nor warranted and are indeed a violation of human rights covenants and declarations. The continuing plight of the helpless Iraqi people, including women and children, is a mark of disgrace for the whole world at a time when the international community is boasting of human rights, democracy and advocating new ethics for children.

Human rights are an inseparable whole which can not and should not be divided to suit certain people rather than others, otherwise they will be meaningless and void. If the international community is really serious about respect of human rights, why is it so far reluctant to embark on an international action to alleviate the plight of Iraqi people? Why should it allow them to starve to death and to suffer from disease, malnutrition, deprivation under the sight and bearing of all the world? Why should it allow two million Iraqi children to suffer from malnutrition? Children have nothing to do with the world of politics, yet they are the first victims of political decisions, political games and vested interests.

No U.N. resolution nor any international instrument allows for the starvation of the entire people of a U.N. member state. Children have the right to survival, protection, participation and development, and so have adults, so will the international community live up to its commitments to the kids, and will the U.N. family rise above political

differences to address human rights and development issues. The United Nations, under whose umbrella the sanctions were imposed on Iraq, is in the first place a humanitarian organisation. It represents the world conscience and will; so why should it allow a superpower to dominate it and confiscate the international will? What is happening in Iraq nowadays is a show of anger with the international community for its failure to put an end to the sufferings of millions of Iraqi people. The United Nations is called upon to isolate itself from this game if it really wants to enjoy the respect of all nations.

It is true that the United Nations does not and should not condone aggression by one state against the other, but it is also very true that the United Nations has a commitment to alleviate human suffering and to encourage peaceful resolution of conflicts among world nations, by direct dialogue. However, such a dialogue is impossible in the presence of deeply-rooted injustice, poverty, deprivation and most importantly military threats. Dialogue cannot be initiated by demonstration of power. Flexing of muscles, nor can it be initiated at gun-point. The latest military build-up in the Gulf will not help defuse tension in this turbulent region; rather it will aggravate the situation, enhance Iraq's isolation and increase people's suffering.

The U.N., bound by its humanitarian mission, is therefore called upon to embark on an action to relax sanctions and ease people's suffering. The time to act is now, for any delay will cost the world dearly.

J. Al Azzeh,  
 Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Creativity — a key to development of cultural, artistic life

By Mohammad Mashariqa

A cultural week organised at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation has focused attention on a host of issues and ideas closely related to the cultural movement in Amman.

Held under the motto: Jerusalem Remembered Through Artistic Creativity, the event presented Kamal Bullata's art exhibition and lecture depicting the Arab cultural patrimony in Andalusia and its link with the artistic infrastructure found in the paintings of four artists from Jerusalem.

The event also included a week-long art exhibition by Jerusalem artist Vladimir Tamari who has been living in Tokyo over the past 25 years, as well as an Andalusian music concert presented by the Algerian Wahran Group.

A keen observer can easily detect the link hindering these different artistic activities: The artistic geometrical technique depicted in Bullata's paintings, which follow a sequence with its roots deeply embedded in Arab-Islamic legacy of Palestine, is the same that was followed by the Arab Andalusian artists, who created arabesque inscriptions; and which gives the beholder absolute delight.

It is to be noted that an artist, from Andalusia or Jerusalem living in the "diaspora", appears to be torn between two memories... two worlds... always remembering himself living in exile. As such, the artist

is neither in harmony with his new homeland nor is he completely disentangled and free from his original native land.

In his lecture, Bullata reviewed the paintings of the four Jerusalemite artists. These works represent a visual delusion by virtue of the presence of similar spaces in colour spread over the face of the paintings. A viewer can see various artistic elements interacting and intermingling, reflecting "self cleavage" and visual diversion. The image clearly represents the exiled person's situation — his past and his present.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

It was a clever move on the part of Bullata who presented his exhibition along with poetry by Moroccan poet Mohammad Bannis and with music especially composed in harmony with the art works.

By presenting poetry, music and paintings, the Darat Al Funun clearly reflected the Palestinian origin in a "mathematical series" thus providing the guests with a rare taste of deep aesthetic, cultural and artistic nature.

It goes without saying that presentation of the concept of exile and expatriation from Andalusia to Jerusalem, Washington, New York or Tokyo in an artistic manner through paintings, music or film is a genuine creative work of art for which Darat Al

Funun takes credit. Let us hope that such technique would serve as a pioneering example to be followed by others, because it ushers in a new phase in the Jordanian artistic and cultural movement.

Galleries and cultural centres have been in the practice of offering quite a big volume of monthly programmes at the expense of quality. It is not an exaggeration to say that a great deal of these activities lack creativity and innovation. The artist and intellectual organiser can develop and enrich programmes suggested to him. For example, he can select an integrated topic to present to the public for a week or a month from different perspectives... artistic, musical, literary or architectural. In this sense, the organiser can offer his audience a nourishing and comprehensive cultural "meal." By following this technique, the organiser can transform quantity into highly-rated and unique quality, following the example of Darat Al Funun in the past week.

In response to possible remarks from some of our intellectuals that such technique could require considerable funds, I can say that this technique, which focuses on creativity and innovation, does not require huge funds but rather a flexible and cultured mentality and people capable of assuming responsibility for the change.

Indeed, it only takes someone to express desire for and show intent to bring about change and build on

other people's works to achieve that end.

Such tendency can open the door wide for novel ideas and can serve as an incentive for further research and study towards constant development and improvement — qualities vitally needed by the successful organisers.

Since its establishment at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, Darat Al Funun has adopted this line of activity, specialising in it within the framework of cultural pluralism which is a true reflection of the society.

Numerous cultural and artistic centres emerged in Amman in the past four years, but they were mostly similar to one another in terms of their programmes. This calls for some reflection on the need for coordination and specialisation, or development of programmes which must not remain confined to the concept of mere presentation but rather towards creating joy and pleasure in the minds of people.

A gallery can be transformed into a lecture hall or a theatre for a documentary film or slide-show, focusing attention on artists' works and their different artistic schools. A gallery could also become an experimental "laboratory" testing the work of theatre groups or musicians, or venue where ideas can be developed and skills refined.

This is how development of artistic and cultural life can best be achieved in Jordan.

## Spanish flair — castanets, guitars and culinary feats

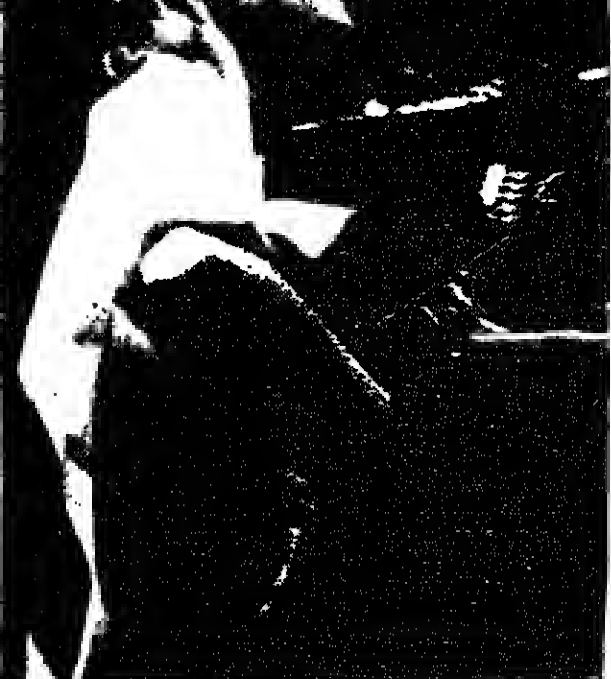
### Spanish Cultural and Gastronomical Week opens Monday

By Jennifer Hamarneh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The sounds, movement voices and tastes of the Iberian peninsula promise to enliven passants in Jordan starting Oct. 17 as the embassy in Spain draws back the curtain on its dramatic programme for Spanish Cultural and Gastronomical Week.

This year's event begins with two guitarists who are said not to perform their music — they live it. Described as "a pre-mature genius of flamenco," 27-year-old Vicente Amigo



Vicente Amigo

go is billed to present electrifying performances of flamenco guitar, including some of his original works.

Amigo is an award-winning musician who has been compared with other guitar greats Pat Metheny and John McLaughlin.

His playing, which blends flamenco with touches of jazz, is influenced by flamenco maestros Manolo Sanlucar, Paco de Lucia, Enrique Morente, Juan Habichuela and Moraito Chico.

He will be accompanied in his performances in Amman by supporting guitars, a vocalist and a dancer.

A disciple of the great Spanish masters of classical guitar, Jose Maria Gallardo Del Rey is said to be one of the most promising musicians of his genre.

As a concert player and composer, Gallardo has performed in his native Spain and abroad.

He is the composer of the official music for the Spanish Pavilion at Expo '92 which was hosted by Spain.

Well known for his virtuosity and highly sophisticated technique, Gallardo's repertoire is vast and varied, ranging from Baroque concerts of

Archangelo Corelli to the modern, classic music of Manuel de Falla.

The classical master will also share with his audience his own "fresh" compositions.

Also in store, is an experience of modern Spanish theatre. And, not to worry about any language barrier, the performances speak the international language of mime. A group of seven young artists make up the theatre group known as Yllana, whose comedic mime has raised the roofs of many a theatre, cafe and festival with torrents of laughter.

The group's play, MUJI, a parody on the Spanish "sport" of bullfighting, won the "Courage d'Or" award for best foreign comedy at the 1993 Toulouse International Comedy Festival.

Yllana will perform for three nights.

The Spanish say, "Quien no ha visto Sevilla no ha visto maravilla" (he who has not seen Sevilla has not seen a marvel).

But Spanish Cultural Week will bring this Andalusian city here to Amman in the form of "Ciudad de Sevilla," a 17-member flamenco dance group which has performed for Their Majesties King Hussein and

Queen Noor, and at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

Their culturally varied performances include the bolero, flamenco and classical dance.

From traditional Spain to pop Spain, modernity has catapulted this large European nation into the 21st century.

No finer example is Danza Invisible, one of the most acclaimed pop-rock groups in Spain.

The group was formed in 1982. Its young musicians combine reggae, Afro-Latin and dance soul, as well as rhythm and blues and ballads.

According to sources at the Spanish embassy, getting them to Jordan was made easier because they have a few friends on the embassy staff.

And now for the gourmets, would-be gourmets and just anyone else who loves to eat, three of Spain's master chefs will work their magic in preparing seven dinners at the Forte Grand Hotel. In the cocinas (kitchens) will be:

— Ramon Roteta, proprietor and chef of Roteta Restaurant in the town of Fuenterrabia near San Sebastian.



Yllana in action

— Juan Ignacio Zubiarain, proprietor and chef of Madrid's Lur Maitea Restaurant, said to be where the famous, the politicians, the artists and the admirers of exquisite cuisine meet.

— Currito, proprietor and chef of Currito Restaurant, described as a bastion of traditional Basque and Spanish cuisine in Madrid.

Also starting on Oct. 17 is an exhibition of modern Spanish art displaying the works of an illustrious

group of contemporary artists including Juan Bordes, Eusebio Sempere and Antonio Saura.

According to Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Juan Manuel Cahrera, Spanish Cultural Week, which is being inaugurated under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, "is a good opportunity for the people here to obtain a general understanding of and actually experience the rich and varied culture

of Spain."

The events, which will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel, the Royal Cultural Centre and the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Sports City are made possible through the cooperation of Royal Jordanian and the Forte Grand Hotel.

All proceeds from the events of the Spanish Cultural Week will go to development projects in the Kingdom.

★ The Jordan Times freelance reporter, Rana Hussein, contributed to this article.

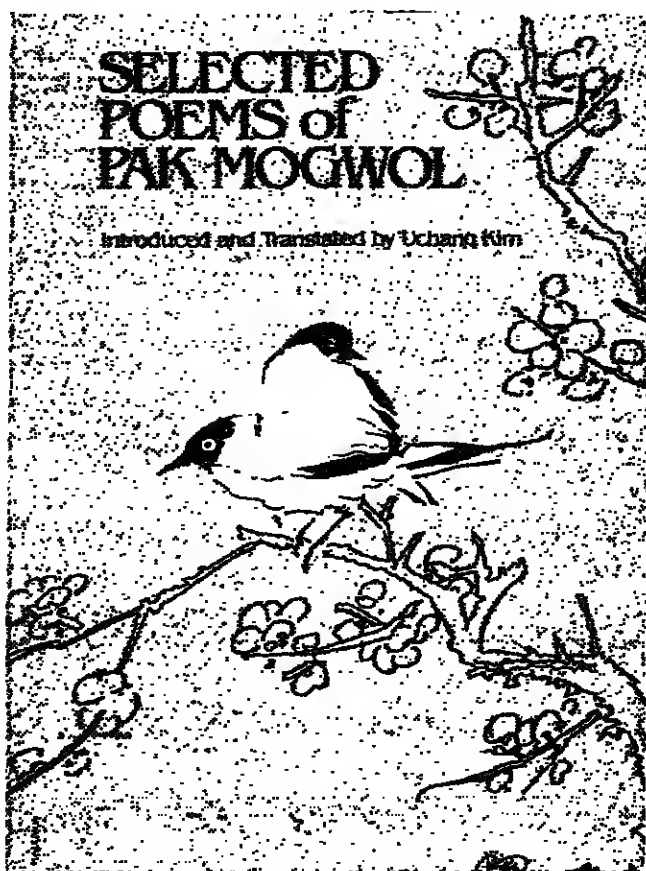
## An attempt in the right direction

### Selected Poems of Pak Mogwol Famous Korean Poet (1916-1978)

Asian Humanities Press. UNESCO

It is known fact that the Far Eastern literature are veritable known in our country, indeed in all Arab countries partly because there had been no historic or cultural links between the two nations due to the far geographic distances and partly because this region fell under Western colonialism and neo-colonialism and so got deeply affected by its cultures. Therefore translation movement from English, French, Italian and German has never stopped since last century. It was and still is a very busy movement which helped create a great appreciation of and liking to those literature and at the same time impeded our people from having the opportunity to look into the literatures of other nations — rich through they may be. Our area knows almost nothing about say Asian or African cultures and this could be considered a shortcoming because intercommunication between nations of the globe is made very easy in the modern world and it is the duty of cultural institutions in each country to take the bold step of acquainting its people with other literature. For cultural exchange and to enrich human heritage and knowledge and to establish friendly contacts between different peoples which will eventually lead to mutual respect and understanding and thus to a better world.

As a start and for the previously mentioned objective this review is a humble, and hopefully successful, attempt in the right direction. The book at hand is a collection of poems by one of the most famous modern Korean poets whose name is absolutely unknown in our society because Korean literature is almost totally obscure to our readers



although it has its distinctive qualities stemming from its old culture. Before we identify our readers with the said poet it would be valuable to point out the

striking features of Korean literature. The Korean peninsula, the simple country, was the theatre of the Korean War, the hard post-war period and the subsequent modernisation and industrialisation which led to prosperity, are the main elements that shape this literature. The Korean poetry is romantic in essence. It spins around the idealisation of nature. It can be the sentimental reflection of the "haunting images of mist, cloud, shadows, moonlight and the music of flowing streams that soften and mystify nature." It is also the "peace of an idyllic landscape." In his early period, poet Pak Mogwol's poems were of a purely romantic kind. He depicted his images from nature which is the main source of romantic images. Born in Kyongju, a small town in the country he could easily pick up natural images and use them in his poems with sweet, melodic language. He had the ability to see with his penetrating eye the minute things in nature and give a lovely description that captivates imagination.

Half a day on scented grass peaks  
A sleek female deer  
Comes solitarily to the hollow  
In the village of a lower slope  
Wets her throat  
In the running stream,  
Washes her eyes  
In the running cloud,  
And looks at the pale moon  
Floating in the sky

But he developed with age as he faced and suffered the harsh reality of city life and the difficulty of earning bread for his family in a materialistic community. Thus his poems got more and more of a

## BOOK REVIEW

philosophical wisdom which made him one of the most important poets of modern Korea.

Every man gathers his ears  
Half-and-half to listen  
To the other world  
To the distant sound of the perished,  
The sound of their footsteps,  
While the world is that of April,  
April's early one third.

With this philosophical wisdom we touch a sense of desolation and shades of depression.

On a night like this,  
Life is full of holes,  
Like a porous turnip hollowed by winds.

All the same "nature was his guiding principle" because "the ideal of simple life he cultivated in spirit, through the memories of his native place and through the symbols of peace he could find in nature." The poet resorts to intensifying his ideas and images in short poems sometimes in two or three verses. He rarely wrote long poems — a trend that is acquiring a mounting importance in modern poetry as a whole.

Sound of water in the night valley,  
Lamps lighted and carried by clouds.  
A mountain peak floating in purple  
Light down to the Eastern Sea

The book is adorned with a fine introduction by Kim Uchang who teaches English in Korea. Extracts quoted between brackets are from his introduction.

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub



## You name it

By Jean-Claude Elias

Just like one has to give a newborn baby a name, each time a PC (personal computer) user creates a file, he or she must give it a name in order to save it on disk for future use. The difference is that one is expected to have only a few children — check the recent U.N. conference on population — while a person making a regular use of a PC may have hundreds or even thousands of files to store and manipulate.

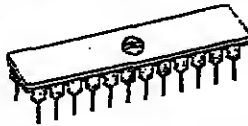
The computer illiterates have become an endangered species, so let us, just for the few of them, briefly explain the rules for assigning names to computer files. The name can only contain alphabet letters, numbers and two or three special characters (question marks, underscores and the star sign). Comas, colons, semi-colons, the dollar sign, dashes, and so on, are not allowed. Neither are spaces. The length of the name is limited to a maximum of EIGHT letters or characters. In addition, and according to obvious logic, one cannot have two files with the same name and in the same disk directory (a logic, software subdivision of a disk).

The problem is to be able to find a file or, worse, remember its name, among a few hundreds of them, a few weeks or months after having created it. The earlier DOS and Windows versions of these time-honoured operating systems did not offer the user any significant assistance to help him locate a file on disk. Fortunately the new releases feature easy to use functions that can instantly track a "lost" file, provided its name, or part of it at least, is known.

When you do not however remember at all the name of this precious file you created last year, you're left with one option — to browse through long lists, opening each suspected file, until the wanted one is found. Recalling what application software, or programme, was used to create the file can certainly alleviate the pain by shortening the process.

If for instance you are searching for a document created using MS-Word, starting the programme and browsing through the list that contains only MS-

## chip talk



Word document will definitely make the search faster.

The best step one can take to avoid misplacing files is to adopt a structured naming method. Computer professionals are very familiar with such a procedure. Give files names that are meaningful. Avoid using only numbers. A first letter to Nabil can be named "NABIL1," a second one "NABIL2" and so on.

Files created with the same programme should be grouped together in a separate directory. Eventual searches would be simplified.

Beyond the simple purpose of easy files retrieval, assigning names according to a method makes copying, deleting and moving groups of files easier as well.

PC users rightfully complain about the file names. "eight-characters-length-limit" that DOS and Windows impose. Actually one can use what is called an extension to the name, consisting of up to three characters following the first eight characters part. Although it certainly helps bring some flexibility to the system, this extension is not always a user decision but is rather automatically generated by the application programmes.

Other operating systems, like OS/2 for example, have crossed the "eight characters-length-limit," allowing for longer names. The next Windows 4.0 is also supposed to offer the possibility of entering long file names. For PC lovers it will be like sunshine after the rain — or like rain after a hot summer, this depending on where one lives.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

■ During the 12th century Icelandic law admitted only two climatic seasons, namely, summer which started on Thursday, the third of April and winter on Thursday, the third of October.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ The lock of a car was frozen due to frost in England. Though the owner used his lips to melt the ice and open the door, they had, in turn been frozen and stuck to the lock until he was saved by a passing traffic policeman.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ In the thirteenth century the Mongol kings used to erect towers made of concrete with windows where the captives' heads were placed to be shown to the people.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ An American invented a station operated by a computer. It was equipped with a pedal, unmoving bicycle and a small number of escalators that would help the operator keep physically and mentally fit for long hours.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ A Canadian painter uses 18 colours of shoe varnishes to paint his pictures.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ Having decided to invade Rome in the third century B.C., Hannibal, the famous leader, resorted to using vinegar and fire to push his way across the snow-covered Alps in an attempt to reach his goal.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Luggage  
— Arrivals  
— Departures  
— Police  
— Lounge  
— Passports  
— Exit  
— Entrance  
— Customs  
— Foreigners  
— Prohibited  
— Refreshments  
— Gate No. 5.  
— Rent-a-car  
— Bookshop  
— Duty free shop  
— Lost property office  
— Airport terminal  
— Airline offices  
— Information desk

Al-amti'a  
Rihlat al-wosool  
Rihlat al-mughadara  
Al-shurta  
Al-istrahah  
Al-Jawazat  
Al-khurooj  
Al-dukhool  
Al-aabiroon  
Nadaya tizkareya  
Ar-rihlat  
Al-jamarik  
Al-ajamib  
Mamnoo  
Mon'ishat  
Bawwaba raqam khamsa  
Sayyarat il-ojra  
Maktaba  
Al-souk al-hurra  
Maktab al-matkooodat  
Mujammas al-matar  
Maktab sharikat al-tayaran  
Maktab al-isti'amat

### TIME FOR FUN

★ MOTHER: Eat your spinach, it'll put colour in your cheeks.  
DAUGHTER: Who wants green cheeks.

★ TEACHER: Correct this sentence: "It was me that spilt the ink."  
PUPIL: It wasn't me that spilt the ink.

★ FATHER: Aren't you ashamed of yourself? You've been learning for three years and you can only count up to ten. What are you going to do in life?  
SON: "I'll be a referee at boxing matches."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ A surgeon took his suit back to the tailor, and complained: "It's all wrong."  
What's the matter with it?" The tailor asked.  
"I don't know," the surgeon replied, "it was all right until I took the stitches out."

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

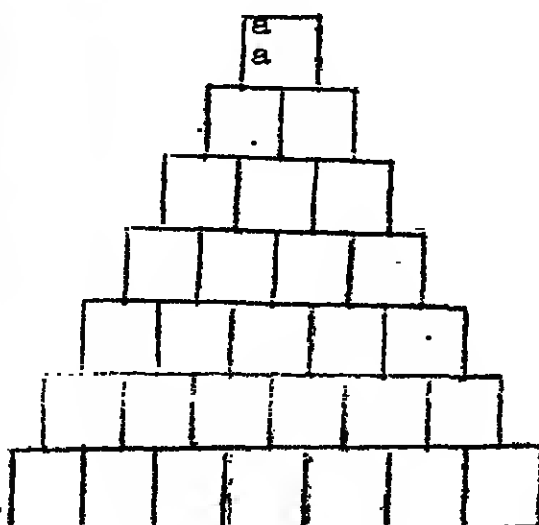
1. The name of Algy is short for what?
2. What is Yom Kippur?
3. What does the expression "sans souci" mean?
4. In a name, what does the prefix Fitz mean?
5. Where is Guadalcanal?
6. What is the capital of Uganda?
7. In which country is the Orinoco River?
8. Which is the older university — Oxford or Cambridge?
9. With what is the game FARO played?
10. What are drachma, escudos and zlotys?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES PYRAMID

Solve the clues to complete the pyramid. Each word is an anagram of the word above it.

1. Phosphorous
2. A river
3. Apex
4. Stain
5. Deign to do
6. Brings in
7. Sea creature



## Towards a new sensibility

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

In the act of building, material necessities naturally give rise to recurring architectural models such as the tower, the bridge, or the labyrinth of identifiable formal structures, where each one is associated with distinct metaphorical connotations.

The tower has asserted itself as an important form in secular culture where height was synonymous with physical advantage and invincibility. Before airplanes, missiles, and nuclear weapons were used by military powers, towers assured might and right. The juxtaposition of the seductive qualities of height, and the inescapable necessities of construction gave the tower its ability to evoke essential and timeless spiritual conflicts.

With height comes the ability to look back down at the surface of the Earth. With height comes the ability to communicate with others unimpeded by whatever is on earth's surface. Yet the view from the summit is not autonomous, but is conditioned by the nature of the journey up; the various views obtained through the Eiffel Tower's latticework of iron allow for unique, private visions as well as for contemplation about the layers of Paris unfolding below.

There is also the matter of the conflict between the form of the tower, the intellectually conceived ideal structure, and the shape of the tower that relates to a process of building and to human activity. The hierarchy implied by the tower and that involved in its construction represent two fundamental, yet intrinsically opposed modes of social organisation.

The specific shape of the tower is seen as antithetical to the attainment of ideal form, an aesthetic that is based on a superimposition of geometry on natural material, the stones that make up the tower. The form of the Tower of Babel, highly conceived as an unfinished pyramid or a truncated cone, reflected the diagrammatic nature of the organisation that created it; an apex of ascending tiers with an unattainable individual at the top. So, while the form of the Tower of Babel could be described as similar to that of a pyramid, its shape was a function of the people who made and inhabited it. The unrelieved mass of the tower was made to accommodate the needs of human activity through the introduction of doors, windows, and interior rooms.

A tower's yielding to human need is necessary for its completion.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 13

7:30 Road To Avonlea

Refusing to give in to despair, Sarah and Gasper raise money to buy new books. But after a fire destroys part of the library, both look for a way out.

8:30 My Secret Identity

Competition between good and bad the theme of a school play.

9:10 Snowy River

Stepping Out

A fierce row between Duke and his uncle erupts over his claims over his father's land.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — One Of Her Own

Starring: Lori Loughlin and Greg Evigan

A policewoman speaks out about a fellow policeman who rapes her. He has the entire police force behind him; she has the deputy district attorney.

11:50 Never The Twain

Simon and Oliver plan separate vacations. Somehow, they find themselves sharing one single room in a hotel.

Friday, Oct. 14

7:30 African Skies

8:30 Movies, Games And Videos

9:10 Tequila And Bonnetti

Tale Of The Dragon

A clairvoyant warns Bonnetti of a crime. Believing her, he and his dog Tequila try to be where the crime is going to take place.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie celebrates her birthday and the return of her husband.

11:00 Coming Of Age

A new subject on the agenda is electing a new administrative committee.

Saturday, Oct. 15

8:30 Bob

Bob meets someone who's actually a man but with the soul and character of a dog.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Prodigal Father

A mystery evolves around two bank robbers who meet again after a long time.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fade Away

Hundreds of young boys and girls are kidnapped and killed in different parts of the U.S. But the U.S. law and legislation sometimes hold back search operations.

11:50 Home Free

At last Vanessa dates someone after the death of her husband.

Sunday, Oct. 16

7:30 FBI: Untold Stories

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 Sherlock Holmes And The Leading Lady

The notorious gang kills the maid (Lida) and an embassy employee and Sherlock Holmes have to face real danger.

10:00 News In English

10:20 House Of Elliott

The House of Elliott sign a business contract. Beatrice and Jack start a new relationship only when John reappears, this time, with good intentions.

11:10 Fly By Night

Slake's airplane is intercepted and forced land at a military base.

Monday, Oct. 17

8:30 Coach

9:10 Columbus And The Age Of Discovery

This series seeks to understand the legacy left behind by Christopher Columbus and uncovers the realities and consequences that surrounded Columbus' voyage of discovery.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Love And Hate

A story of continuous struggle between a husband and wife over their children's custody. Many concessions had to be made for the sake of the children.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

7:10 The Nature Of Things

8:30 Leave It To Beaver

Girl Talks

Old grandma is reluctant to go to Florida. At the same time Kelly plays the role of the sleeping beauty in a school play.

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

Dreams

In his dreams, Mike sees a woman seeking help he has been dead for a long time.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Gnome Mobile

A nice walk in the woods, turns into a wild adventure when a man and his grandchildren run into two gnomes one of which is looking for the lost woman.

11:50 The Upper Hand

Caroline's former husband comes for a visit. After knowing he is changed, she agrees to remarry him, but the question is: Does he want to do so?

Wednesday, Oct. 19

7:10 Galactica

9:10 Cracking The Code

Birth, Sex and death

This episode delves into the subject of the DNA and how it controls the growth of certain cells as well as new studies on the male and female chromosome.

10:00 News In English

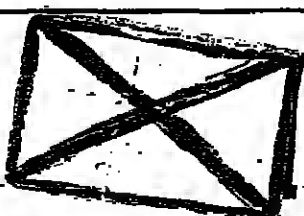
10:20 Poldark

A demonstration starts as a result of the workers' hunger. Sir Francis takes strict measures against them.

11:10 The Exile

The Eye Of The Beholder

Members belonging to a political faction ask for urgent radical changes after holding hostages in a mined building.





## Digital arts exhibition opens Sunday

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — An exhibition of digital art, the first of its kind in the region, will be held at the Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Sagra St., opening under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor on Oct. 16 and will run for three weeks.

The owner of the gallery, Dr. Shamil Kubba, has developed a keen interest in computer-generated art, which is drawing increasing attention in the United States, he said.

Dr. Kubba believes that digital art will be encouraged by growing market demand as its use in the commercial sector becomes more popular.

Dr. Kubba has a collection of about 40 of his own pictures, including portraits, landscapes and abstract patterns.

The exhibition, the opening of which has been postponed by three weeks on account of technical difficulties, will display works by Dr. Kubba, Omar Shahun, Karam Annab, students of the American Community School and other artists.

Dr. Kubba stressed the potential of this style of art, saying that artistic work can be enhanced, providing amateur artists with the opportunity to create pictures better than when using traditional mediums.

Different computer programmes enable the user to manipulate the finished product changing the style

from one similar to traditional water colours to more solid colours.

Dr. Kubba says that the capabilities of the computer programmes are vast with many shapes and sizes of "brushes" and an infinite selection of colours. There is a basic palette of colours, and for each one there are hundreds of graduating shades most of which are indiscernable to the eye, he said.

There are three approaches to producing computer art, Dr. Kubba explained. An image can be scanned on to the screen which the artist is then able to modify. Alternatively work can be produced directly on the screen using a "mouse" like a brush or a pencil. The third approach is a combination of the two, which Dr. Kubba says is preferred by most computer artists.

One picture can be transposed upon another and the medium onto which the product is printed also alters the effect. Currently he mainly uses a photographic print-out but he sometimes produces his work on canvas. The latter gives the picture a different texture, he said. Various forms of printing available are ink-jet, laser, dye sublimation and thermal wax among others — all of which result in slightly differing products. The thermal wax, for example, is not as fine as the dye sublimation technique and does not lend to such precise detail.

Despite the innumerable facilities offered by computer programmes and associated technology and the ease with which they can be used, Dr. Kubba said

that the work produced was dependent upon the ability, creativity and imagination of the artist. He also said that individual styles are perceivable, just as with any other art form.

The huge expense required for artists to indulge in this kind of art limits it to the wealthy, but Dr. Kubba hopes that increased interest will lead to reduced prices of equipment, which will, in turn, open the door to more aspiring digital artists.

While appreciating the technological wonders involved, to the unaccustomed eye this style of art seems to lack the benefits of physical mediation between brush and paper. Pictures of views appear "placeless" and some portraits look no more than photographs. Despite the huge range of colour, digital art pictures do not exhibit the depth of colour of traditional paintings. But this is a personal opinion of one with negligible fascination for computer-generated anything.

The significance of this exhibition is that it will be the first digital art exhibition to be held in the Arab World.

Dr. Kubba said that Jordan has become one of the major cultural centres in the region having witnessed a marked interest in artistic activity in recent years. This has resulted largely because of encouragement gained from official and royal patronage.

Dr. Kubba intends the exhibition to incite other like-minded artists to try their hand at exhibiting locally and internationally.

## Summer lessons: Record season showed what flicks click

By John Horn  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — The just-concluded summer film season was Hollywood's best ever, with ticket sales reaching \$2.2 billion. A record eight movies grossed more than \$100 million — and two, *Forrest Gump* and *The Lion King*, collected in excess of \$200 million.

The summer record resulted from more admissions and not higher ticket prices, according to box-office analysts. The National Association of Theatre Owners says ticket prices have remained steady or declined since 1989. Furthermore, the proliferation of discount "dollar houses" and low-price matinees means some moviegoers are paying less than past years.

The previous summer record was set in 1993, with \$2.1 billion in turnstile revenues.

While studio accountants tally the loot from this season's take, the town's moviemakers are pondering the summer's lessons. For despite all the hits, there were several failures.

Here, then, are the lessons of summer: — Give the people what they want, and put box-office stars in the right roles.

A year ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger hit bottom with the strange fantasy-action-comedy crossbreed *Last Action Hero*. This year, he starred in a straightforward thriller, *True Lies*. The result: Relatively strong ticket sales, and a rebound for the actor's career.

Bruce Willis, on the other hand, dropped his action-hero status, and his pants, for the sexually themed *Colour of Night*. Everyone stayed away. So what's Willis making now? *Die Hard 3*.

— Don't let star directors put egos ahead of stories.

Three of the season's biggest bombs — Lawrence Kasdan's *Wyatt Earp*, Rob Reiner's *North and Penny Marshall's Renaissance Man* — came from prominent filmmakers who failed to notice their expensive works held no appeal beyond their own imaginations.

Kevin Costner's starring role in the epic *Wyatt Earp* would seem sure-fire, given the success of *Dances With Wolves*. But the latter had a compelling story to tell and a point of view. *Wyatt Earp* had neither and thereby lost a staggering \$50 million.

— Tom Hanks, Harrison Ford and Jim Carrey are the hottest stars going.

Audiences loved the story behind *Forrest Gump*, but if not for Hanks the film never would have been the huge hit it is. Similarly, there were flaws in both *Clear and Present Danger* and *The Mask*. But Ford and Carrey's presence carried both films above their problems.

— Derivative movies are among the hardest to make.

Speed, fairly described as *Die Hard* on a bus, stood out as one of the season's top hits, grossing more than \$116 million. "The Flintstones," a live-action version of the cartoon, also clicked, netting more than \$129 million. But several other

movies that were thinly disguised rebashes of old stories proved disastrous.

The flops included *Andre* (Free Willy with a seal instead of a killer whale), *Cowboy Way* (City Slickers in reverse) and *Beverly Hills Cop III* (a much-delayed sequel). — Don't let Sony Pictures make or release your movie.

Just when you think the company's Columbia and TriStar Studios' reign of error can't get any worse, it does. How's this for a bunch of winners? *City Slickers 2*, *North and Wagon* East there were two mild hits — *Wolf and It Could Happen To You* — but the losers heavily outweighed the winners.

— Disney's animated films are king — but will that last?

The *Lion King's* profits cannot be measured by its \$264 million box-office receipts alone, since the animated musical is merely the axis for a world of profits, from merchandise to theme-park attractions. The challenge is for Disney to repeat the magic with next year's *Pocahontas*. Jeffrey Katzenberg, the studio executive behind the animated films, recently resigned, and successor Joe Roth has limited animation experience.

— Art films can still work in the summer.

With highbrow audiences repulsed by low-brow fare, several quality art films managed to play well despite heavy competition from the big studio releases. The standouts include *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Barcelona*, *Widow's Peak* and *Fresh*.

The distributors of these independent films used to avoid the summer completely, but now they no longer run for cover.

— Too many movies cannot fit into too little space.

Disney, for one, jammed the summer season with many movies that didn't even last as long as Shannen Doherty's *Marriage*. The here-today, gone-tomorrow Disney list included *In The Army Now* and *Camp Nowhere*. It didn't help, either, that critics hated both.

— MGM isn't back. Yet.

The studio's new management is aggressive and determined. Like the old regime, however, their movies aren't popular. The summer was an 0-for-2 bust: *Getting Even With Dad* and *Blown Away* both fizzled.

— Hollow hype doesn't work. Word-of-mouth does.

If a movie is not interesting, people will not talk about it. Miramax tried to establish *The Advocate* as the "year's most controversial movie." What it was: One of the year's most unwatched movies.

*Forrest Gump*, on the other hand, succeeded not because of Paramount's marketing campaign. People saw the movie, and recommended it to friends.

— Sell what you have. One week, the advertisements for *I Love Trouble* made it look like a romantic comedy. The next week, the spots cast the Julia Roberts-Nick Nolte movie as a thriller. Moviegoers didn't know which it was (actually, it was just a mess), and didn't bite.

## Jerry Lee Lewis opens home to public tours

by Woody Baird  
The Associated Press

**NESBIT, Miss.** — Graceland it's not.

But that's just fine, thank you very much, with pioneer rocker Jerry Lee Lewis. He likes his rural residence just the way it is.

"This is not a museum. This is our home," said Kerrie Lewis, the 58-year-old rebel's sixth wife and midlife crisis controller.

Struggling to pay off a \$60,000 debt to the Internal Revenue Service, the Lewises have opened their house to public tours through October, at \$5 per visitor.

Except for its iron driveway gates with piano design, the brick, ranch-style house 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of Memphis shows little on the outside to distinguish from many others in rural, north Mississippi. There's plenty of open space, lots of trees and all the lounging, dusty yard

dogs one could want.

And aside from the gold records and Lewis family pictures, the sears best interior is pretty routine, too, though the general feel leans towards a kind of country-boy French provincial.

A toothy cougar skin rug dominates the living room floor, and clear plastic covers encase a white sofa and matching chair.

A rather worn, white piano supports more family photos as well as soft-ball trophies won by a team Lewis once sponsored. A large "glamour photo" of Mrs. Lewis, 31, used at the grand opening of a shopping mall portrait studio, graces a nearby wall.

It's a lived-in house, with the tours run primarily by friends of Lewis, his wife and their 7-year-old son, Lee.

The foyer is big enough to turn around in and opens to the narrow hall leading past the living

room and kitchen to the den. The three bedrooms are off limits to tourists.

The den, dotted with small ceramic collected by Lewis, has a black leather sofa in front of a large picture window overlooking a muddy, 4-acre pond. (Most Mississippi ponds are muddy.) Parked on the bank was Lewis' jet ski.

"As soon as y'all are ready, we can go out and see the famous, piano-shaped pool," tour guide Melody Holmes said.

The history of Lewis' stormy career and his home's proximity to the Memphis residence of the other rock 'n' roller, Elvis Presley, lead to inevitable comparisons.

Lewis has struggled through much of his career in Presley's shadow, and a mention of Elvis' Graceland causes a bit of bristling.

"We're not going to line them up like a herd of cattle and bring them through," Mrs. Lewis

said. "We're not going to buy the lot across the street and open up gift shops."

Graceland, where Presley died in 1977, supports a sprawling complex of shops and museums. With more than 700,000 visitors a year, it annually brings in some \$15 million.

The Lewis house, with a single fold-out table for T-shirts and other souvenirs, has drawn about 50 people a day, Wednesdays through Saturdays, since it opened to the public in early August.

Lewis and Presley got their starts at Sun Records in Memphis, and Lewis with his "Pumping Piano" was closing in on Presley by the time Elvis went into the army in 1957.

But Lewis' marriage to 13-year-old cousin Myra Gail set off a public firestorm that knocked his career off track, and Presley kept the crown.

Lewis has carried on a running battle with the IRS since the 1970s and

has lived a life buffeted by drugs, booze and broken marriages.

A tour of the house, though it lacks the flash of a Graceland visit, does offer the chance of a special treat for fans.

"At least once a week, Jerry Lee has walked out into one of the tours when he forgot," Mrs. Lewis said. "They got to see Jerry Lee at home in his robe or wearing jeans and a T-shirt."

Lewis appears to have toned down his hard living since his marriage in 1984 to his current wife, who has taken an active role in straightening out his finances and personal affairs.

Now, he's trying to settle with tax collectors. The house tours are part of that effort, along with plans for a new album and a book on his life being written by a British author.

Lewis also is performing on stage whenever he can, now that the IRS (for the

time being at least) has stopped showing up to seize concert receipts.

"We're not turning anything down," Mrs. Lewis said. "We're trying to get it done the easiest way we can without killing Jerry Lee."

If Lewis can come up with the \$560,000 over the next two years, the IRS has agreed to wipe out a \$4 million tax debt, which includes penalties and interest accumulated over the years.

Lewis was acquitted of criminal tax evasion charges in U.S. District Court in Memphis in 1984. As with many of his "sessions," Lewis doesn't actually own the house he's lived in since 1973.

It's owned by a long-time friend, but Lewis had a lifetime lease to live there. The IRS seized that lease last year and sold it at auction for \$32,800. Mrs. Lewis bought it back for an undisclosed sum.

## Buzzy bee is back in search of New Zealand style

**WELLINGTON (R)** — A dented metal butterfly ailed to a modest wooden house has metamorphosed into a New Zealand icon.

The once fashionable scoration, which made plain weatherboard houses stand out from their suburban neighbours, is this land of immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s, is art of an exhibition touring New Zealand that seeks to define the country's national style.

The exhibition, *Kiwiana*, is above all a celebration of the ordin-

ary and an unabashed attempt to cash in on a national nostalgia boom after a decade of radical change.

"One of the motivating things was... in the last 10 years or so New Zealand has thrown open the doors to the winds of change and a lot of our companies and institutions have disappeared or changed," curator Richard Wolfe says.

"We saw it as an opportunity to recognise and celebrate what has been, but also to acknowledge

change," he says.

The exhibition comes at a time when some New Zealanders are pondering their country's identity after calls by Prime Minister Jim Bolger to cut constitutional links with the British monarchy and become a republic.

The down-to-earth flavour of the exhibition reflects a practical, resourceful streak in the national character that New Zealanders like to call "Kiwi ingenuity."

Not surprisingly for a people outnumbered 15 to one by sheep, New

Zealanders have no shortage of rural symbols.

They are all here, the makeshift shed with rusting corrugated iron roof, the black singlet and gumboots worn by the archetypal Kiwi farmer and the thick woollen swanndri jacket, or swanni.

The chief symbol of rural ingenuity on display is the Taranaki Gate, the name given to any farm gate cobbled together from what wire and wood is on hand, with an emphasis on practicality, not aesthetics.

But the most popular

icon, Mr. Wolfe says, is Buzzy Bee, a red and black striped wooden toy, popular in the 1950s and 1960s, which has yellow wings and buzzes when pulled along the floor by a string.

Buzzy, billed as New Zealand's other national animal, after the flightless Kiwi, is trendy again, currently featured on stamps, in advertising campaigns and, of course, in toy shops.

The exhibition features a statue to Buzzy made of corrugated iron, the roof-

ing product that itself features as a part of the rural way of life.

The idea for the exhibition, like the Kiwi boot polish featured in it, actually came from Australia, but that does not detract from its popularity.

More than 45,000 people saw it in Auckland and it is now on an 18-month national tour, on show in a refurbished Wellington City Art Gallery that currently has three separate exhibitions all contemplating the national navel.

## Restoring the music to silent films

By Connie Cass  
The Associated Press

**ASHINGTON** — They are never meant to be lent. In their heyday, the films now known as "silent movies" were alive with the rumble of kettle drums, the sonorous tones of the organ, the whine of oboes.

A movie wasn't just flickering shadows in black and white — it was an event, often featuring a full orchestra plus an organist.

When three decades of silent films ended in 1929, the orchestras were disbanded, the organists red, the music lost.

Gillian Anderson's mission is to find those forgotten movie scores and bring them to life again.

"It's rejoining the lives of an original work of art that has been cut in vain," says Anderson, a music specialist at the Library of Congress.

Timing the music to match the action on screen is an art in itself. Anderson has done this for 17 silent movies, including D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance* and *Way Down East*, and two Charlie Chaplin films.

Her latest project is the 1922 German vampire movie *Nosferatu* — aptly subtitled "A Symphony Of Horror." She conducted the National Symphony Orchestra in the premiere of the reconstructed score in August. She will take the film to Ann Arbor, Mich., in November and to New York next May.

The premier showed how it might have been back then: The energy of live musicians, applause and occasional nervous laughter from the audience, the film carefully projected at the proper speed, so the action is flowing, not jerky.

"There has been an entire generation brought up

on the notion that silent films run at this crazy speed, everybody rushing around, with just a little tinkling piano going in the background," she said. "That's a perversion of the original."

At the peak of the silent film era, some 500 U.S. theatres had full orchestras to accompany films, Anderson said. Smaller cinemas had 10-piece or five-piece ensembles; only the smallest theatres offered a lone pianist or organist.

Many films arrive at movie houses with only a "cue sheet" listing snippets of music to be played with each scene. The music was drawn from catalogues of thousands of interchangeable mood pieces.

Some directors, including Griffith and Chaplin, demanded more.

They commissioned composers to write the first original film scores, pioneering an art that is

intrinsic to movies today. Yet for decades to follow, movie buffs would watch these early films in silence.

"It took Francis Ford Coppola to revive silent movie grandeur."

Coppola's studio resurrected the 1927 French silent film *Napoleon* — with an orchestral score written and conducted by Coppola's father, Carmine. The 4½-hour epic toured the country to great fanfare in 1981.

"I've been here 25 years trying to save the old films," said David Parker of the Library of Congress' recorded sound division, "and I could have never predicted the audience response to *Napoleon*."

"Suddenly places like Radio City Music Hall were filled with people watching a silent movie," he said.

Now art museums show silent movies accompanied by piano or small

ensemble, and major orchestras occasionally perform under a flickering screen.

A handful of composers write new scores for silent films, said Ed Stratmann, assistant curator of the George Eastman House film collection in Rochester, New York.

"Ten years ago, you would have found one or two people doing this," he said. "Now, probably it's in double digits."

Anderson's approach is different. As a scholar, her goal is not to create, but to recreate.

She often revives old scores from the Library of Congress' vast collection of movie music submitted for copyright. That can be tricky, because much of the music doesn't carry a label noting which film it was written for. And only about 10 per cent of the silent films survive today.

She discovered the music for Chaplin's *The*

Gold Rush and *The Circus* tucked away in the basement of his family home in Switzerland.

For *Nosferatu*, she had little to work with. She could find only a 40-minute suite "taken from the original score for the 92-minute movie, and a few notations by its composer, Hans Erdmann."

The suite was stretched to fit the spooky film with some guesswork and the help of composer James Kessler. "It's really like doing a three-dimensional crossword puzzle," Anderson said.

The goal is to recapture a moment in history.

Silent films combined "the quintessential artifact of the 19th century," the live orchestra, with "the quintessential artifact of the 20th century," the mechanical moving picture, Anderson explained.

"Nothing else collapses the two centuries that way," she said.



## Plague exposes Indian health system

By Michael Battye

Reuter

NEW DELHI — The plague that panicked the world has exposed huge deficiencies in the Indian health system and some doctors are warning further disease will follow unless something is done.

"If conditions, methods of operation, remain as they are, then this plague is only the beginning," said Dr. P.V. Unnikrishnan of the Voluntary Health Association (VHA).

"I have to warn you very seriously that our health system is deteriorating and other epidemics will undoubtedly happen unless radical changes are made."

The outbreak of highly infectious pneumonic plague that erupted in the west coast city of Surat on Sept. 19 has left many puzzles unresolved.

Why it hit mostly men and was transmitted in the workplace rather than at

home, is one. World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Hiroshi Nakajima told a recent news conference.

Nor, he said, was it clear why the disease had not spread like wildfire across the country when 300,000 people fled Surat in terror of the plague and its medieval image.

Cases appeared in eight of India's 26 states but all except four of the 56 deaths from a disease now easily curable by common antibiotics were in Surat.

And fewer than 300 other suspected cases proved positive among India's population of 900 million, many of them poor and ignorant of modern health practices.

It was also far from clear why the plague had erupted in Surat and whether there was a connection with a preceding outbreak of bubonic plague hundreds of miles away.

That happened in the western state of Maharashtra in an area where

10,000 people were killed in a massive earthquake a year ago and was known to be susceptible to bubonic plague.

The bug which causes plague lives in the soil and is known to flourish after seismic disturbances. Rats commonly ingest the bug with their food. Nobody died of bubonic plague.

A WHO team plans to probe such questions and look into ways of guarding against a disease which centuries ago killed one-third of Europe's people and 12 million Indians between 1889 and 1918.

But lessons have already been learned for India and many other countries where plague cases have been detected in past years.

India's monitoring system for a disease that had not struck in 30 years emerged as being woefully inadequate.

Although thousands of rats, which pass the plague to fleas which bite and infect humans, are tested for the disease each year,

that is clearly not enough, said Dr. Ashish Kumar Mukherjee, director general of India's health services.

"The early warning system was neither accurate nor effective," he said. "We need more laboratory facilities, more manpower. We now have four laboratories (for monitoring the plague). We need many, many more."

Such moves, however, merely touch the surface of the wider problems of Indian health care, said Dr. Unnikrishnan of the VHA, an independent body.

"Did you know that one Indian dies every five minutes from tuberculosis?" he said. "That one-third of the population is exposed to malaria, that one-third of the world's leprosy sufferers are Indians, that of 22 million children born each year, 2.5 million die before they are one, that 40 per cent of them suffer from malnutrition and 50 per cent of children and 65 per cent

of women are anaemic?"

In addition, the majority of India's people still do not have access to safe drinking water and are constantly exposed to gastric diseases, often fatal because village health care programmes do not work, he said.

Dr. Unnikrishnan said that in the years after independence from Britain in 1947, India spent 3.32 per cent of its budget on health in a big effort to set

up facilities in rural areas.

Now that figure is down to 1.88 per cent, rural health care merely sputters and health education, while heavily publicised by the government, does no more than skim the surface, he said.

"About 80 per cent of the health budget is spent on hospitals and research facilities, which are always in the big cities and towns when 70 per cent of the people live in the country-

side."

Doctors are ignorant, hence some private doctors with their own clinics fled from Surat as terrified as their patients, Dr. Unnikrishnan said.

"The whole thing needs an overhaul but there is no sign of any political will to do it. Perhaps the most important lesson we Indians have learned is that there is no public confidence in the health system. The flight from Surat

proves that."

That is an argument that brings smiles of agreement in the long corridors of the Health Ministry.

"There is a deep anger here that the politicians left it to the bureaucrats to deal with the plague. They were shockingly absent from the front lines," said one senior official who declined to be named.

## Experimental AIDS treatment 'prolongs life'

By Sue Baker

Reuter

LONDON — Researchers said Monday they had conclusive evidence an experimental AIDS treatment using plasma transfusions delays the onset of the disease in HIV-positive patients and prolongs the lives of AIDS sufferers.

Dr. Abraham Karpas of the University of Cambridge's Department of Haematology said, however, that although passive immune therapy (PIT) was a "breakthrough" in treating AIDS and had no known side effects it should not be described as a cure.

"It is definitely not a cure. There is no cure in sight, but it looks as if it is the best form of treatment," he said in his presentation to a London conference.

Dr. Karpas said U.S. and French studies on PIT released at the conference confirmed his original research.

"Their double-blind, placebo-controlled studies showed that this treatment benefits AIDS patients and prolonged their survival," he stated in a telephone interview.

He said the studies, conducted by the Hemacore Corporation of California and two Paris hospitals, also showed that PIT helped to delay the onset of full-blown AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in people tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes the deadly disease.

Under PIT, patients receive a monthly transfusion of half a litre of plasma taken from healthy HIV-positive individuals. The blood has the red and white cells removed and is

free of HIV but has high levels of neutralising antibodies that kill the virus.

Dr. Karpas said he first discovered in 1985 that people with HIV who were otherwise healthy had high levels of these antibodies in their blood while AIDS patients lost these neutralising antibodies and their ability to fight infections.

Four patients in Cambridge were the first to receive the treatment and subsequently small scale trials were carried out in London in 1988 and 1989. But Dr. Karpas said he had failed to receive funding for his research in Britain and studies had therefore been set up in the United States and France.

The Hemacore trial studies the effects of PIT on 220 AIDS patients over the three years. It found that in the first 12 months the mortality rate was

greatly reduced in the group who received the plasma transfusion while those in the control group, where no treatment was given, had a death rate of five times higher.

The treated group had one death in 21 people while the placebo group had six deaths in 30.

Moreover, the number of AIDS-linked infections was far lower in the treated group and the blood donors themselves also appeared to benefit. The researchers said donating blood appeared to stimulate the production of neutralising antibodies in the blood of HIV-positive patients.

The French studies produced similar results, Dr. Karpas said. He said the U.S. and French studies represented the "first conclusive evidence that PIT is an effective AIDS treatment."

## 'Smoking while pregnant may predispose daughters to smoke too'

By Lauran Neergaard

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The daughters of women who smoke during pregnancy — but not the sons — may be biologically predisposed to smoke, a new study contends. It suggests prenatal nicotine "primes" a fetus' brain.

Animal studies have shown prenatal nicotine does affect certain brain activity once the animal is grown. But scientists never pursued that link in humans because no one had ever found a relationship between children's tendency to smoke and prenatal exposure — until now.

"What this really shows is there may be subtle effects on brain function that won't become apparent until 13, 14, 15 years

later," said Dr. Denise Kandel of Columbia University. "It's another reason women shouldn't smoke."

Teenage girls were four times more likely to smoke if their mothers smoked while pregnant, a risk that remained even when researchers controlled for social influences, Dr. Kandel reported in the American Journal of Public Health.

Dr. Kandel theorised that nicotine, which can cross the placenta barrier, stimulates a fetus' receptors for dopamine, the brain chemical involved with drug addiction. This "priming" may predispose girls to smoke, Dr. Kandel contended.

But prenatally exposed boys weren't at risk. Dr. Kandel isn't sure why, but suggested male hormones

may protect the male fetus.

"It is a very interesting and provocative paper," said Dr. Nigel Paneth, an expert on pediatric epidemiology at Michigan State University. "If this really happens, from a biological point of view... that's very intriguing."

But he cautioned that, despite Dr. Kandel's controls, the results may mean daughters are simply copying their mothers.

Most research shows children suffer if either parent smokes. Another study in Tuesday's journal says even non-smoking mothers bear underweight babies if their husbands smoke 20 cigarettes a day during the pregnancy. And children do imitate

their smoking parents.

Three separate surveys, when results are combined, show a fourfold risk for prenatally exposed daughters, Dr. Kandel concluded.

That risk persisted when she is controlled for childhood exposure to a smoking mother. In fact, prenatally exposed daughters whose mothers had kicked the habit were more likely to smoke themselves than daughters of current, long-term smokers who temporarily stopped while pregnant.

"I don't know that I can prove my theory," she admitted, but the next step is further animal studies to prove how nicotine affects developing dopamine systems and whether male hormones block the changes.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

RIO, BRAVO!  
By Joel Davajan

ACROSS  
1. Smoked Van  
4. Show part  
6. Cat, prov.  
10. 17th letter  
11. Covered with hair  
12. Doctor's name  
13. On separate ways  
14. Related verb  
15. Convertible  
16. These should be straightened out  
17. Telephone numbers  
18. Poet  
19. Embroidered  
20. Calendar abbr.  
21. Santa's abductor  
22. Chubby or plump  
23. Mischief

DOWN  
1. Humors go  
2. Mythological  
3. Classy verb  
4. Sun emblem  
5. Area measure  
6. Ocean crossing  
7. Medical condition  
8. Cambridge school  
9. It... (suddenly)  
10. Mile-a-hour  
11. Poetic  
12. Squaller at chess  
13. From...  
14. Rock star  
15. Trash  
16. McKing or Adams  
17. Planning factor

34. Cleans the floor  
37. Trace of color  
38. Lull  
39. Lull  
40. Places for  
41. Whetstone  
42. Whetstone  
43. Uncomfortably  
44. Star head  
45. Carden rover  
46. J.L.O.  
47. Meditation  
48. Shocker verb  
49. Packaged for  
50. Even food  
51. Flare

52. Some fishermen  
53. South  
54. World's greatest  
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## Jordan, Israel finalising 'peace package'

(Continued from page 1)

once resolved "will necessarily form a peace treaty."

Although the source would not reveal specifics, he confirmed that the "concepts" have been mostly agreed upon and that the details that still have to be worked out "will not delay the signing of a peace treaty."

Neither side is denying that negotiations have moved into the critical stage although both also appeared to want to leave the big announcements to the leadership of the two states.

Asked whether the negotiators had lost their role after the apparent moving of negotiations to the leadership level, Mr. Rubenstein said that the negotiators "are doing whatever possible to bridge the gap, but there are matters that either have to be confirmed or be bridged by the leadership."

"This is a sensitive stage in negotiations," he repeated when questioned over the details of the "peace package" adding that revealing any information "would not serve neither the Jordanian or

Israeli side."

But he did confirm that the negotiations during this round of bilateral talks were largely concentrated on "formulating ideas" vis-a-vis the water, territories and security issues.

Asked whether Israel was disputing Jordanian claims to any territory, Mr. Rubenstein said that he would not label the status of the territories as disputed or a security concern and that the final status of the territories was a technical question that will be largely determined by the delineation and demarcation of boundaries.

He, however, pointed out that a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel could be signed before the completion of the demarcation "which will take a long time."

Jordanian delegation sources concurred with Mr. Rubenstein on this point. "Delineation of boundaries is the most important phase in the resolution of the territorial issue because it defines, on paper, where the international boundaries should be."

"Demarcation is the process of implementation on the ground," a Jordanian de-

legate said.

On water, Jordanian spokesman Marwan Mnasheer told reporters that "it is just a matter of numbers and quality of water that we are negotiating."

According to other sources close to the water talks, the final details on the number in cubic metres that constitute the Kingdom's water shares in the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers may be left open until a last-moment intervention at leadership level.

The principles guiding the security arrangements between Jordan and Israel, according to sources from both sides, "have been largely agreed upon" and most of the negotiations now are concentrating on the details concerning these principles.

Although none of the negotiators interviewed by the Jordan Times would reveal specific details of the agreements that are being reached during these talks, there appears to be a consensus among delegates from both sides that the drawn out negotiations between Israel and Jordan over the past three years may be coming to a close.

## U.S. says Iraq continues to pose threat

(Continued from page 1)

ships plus 21 more U.S. ships now steaming towards the Gulf.

Iraqi officials accuse the United States of seeking to create a crisis to prolong the international sanctions that have been stifling Iraq's economy.

In an interview on Iraqi Television, General Amer Mohammad Rasheed, the officer in charge of coordinating activity with the United Nations, said Monday that the United Nations was "always trying to create pretexts for keeping the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq."

Lifting the sanctions would allow Iraq to resume its oil production, which before the embargo averaged three million barrels a day. Iraqis believe that the major Gulf oil producers are seeking trying to keep Iraqi oil off the market.

The U.S. and British Council is very weak so they

wanted to blow something up and draw attention away from the sanctions," said Abdul Razak Al Hashimi, director of the Baath Party's foreign relations department.

Russia, France and China, fellow permanent members of the Security Council, had supported easing sanctions to reward Baghdad for cooperating with U.N. inspectors embargoed with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Since the latest crisis began taking shape, Iraq has highlighted Moscow's efforts to intervene, apparently hoping to exploit the split within the Security Council.

Both Gen. Rasheed and Mr. Hashimi as well as foreign diplomats said they saw little sign that a military exclusion zone would do much to forge any sort of internal opposition against Iraq.

"Whatever the U.S. is doing, thinking it will change the system of government, will not work," Al Hashimi said.

The sanctions are having a devastating effect on the 18 million population. Food rations have been halved, crime is rampant and medicine scarce.

Diplomats said that although Iraq still has economic resources, it can see the edge of the cliff approaching and wants to provoke the confrontation over sanctions now while it still has some leeway.

But as the infrastructure crumbles, diplomats expect Iraq to continue provoking crises in order to attract attention to its problems.

Meanwhile members of a team of influential Western military specialists warned Wednesday that the forced creation under U.S. proposals of an exclusion zone in southern Iraq could seriously destabilise the country.

Members of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) issued their warning after a U.S. diplomat revealed that an American proposal for a demilitarised land zone was among other ideas under discussion to end an Iraqi threat to Kuwait.

The U.S. diplomat at U.N. headquarters compared the proposed land exclusion zones to no-fly zones established over the north and south of Iraq.

Mr. Christopher would neither confirm nor deny Wednesday that the creation of a land exclusion zone was under consideration.

## Majali: Gulf ties improving

(Continued from page 1)

sides, Dr. Majali said that this was not possible at the moment since such a confederation can only take place between two independent entities, with the people expressing their free will.

"How can we talk about confederation at a time when

the two sides are beset with huge political and economic issues?" said the prime minister.

However, he stressed, there is no Jordanian-Palestinian struggle over any part of the occupied land and Jordan will continue to provide all possible assistance to the Palestinian people.

## GATT official urges WTO entry

(Continued from page 12)

provisions have been specially built into the agreements so as to give the developing countries sufficient time to fully meet their obligations.

Jordan applied to join GATT in January. The Singapore-headed working group was set up in March to negotiate the Kingdom's entry. The Jordanian government is drafting the memorandum that explains the Kingdom's economic policies and the terms it would like to have while entering GATT.

However, it is not late to drop the GATT application and apply direct to WTO, said Mr. Kesavapany, adding that Jordan would be able to complete the process in about 12-18 months time.

A marked advantage Jordan would have in entering the WTO would be that it would not have to deal with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the WTO as three distinct entities with conflicting poli-

cies. For instance, Jordan does not have to explain to IMF or the World Bank why it could not implement a reform in a certain sector of the economy since it would violate its agreement with WTO or vice-versa since all three organisations are interrelated.

In general, "Jordan's aspirations for building itself up into a regional hub for distribution and other activities will be enhanced by the scope provided in the agriculture, services and other agreements," he said.

"Jordan has everything to gain and nothing to gain by an early application to join the WTO," said the Singaporean diplomat. "With 117 existing members, and another 50 applicants, Jordan will be a member of a universal trade organisation whose aims are to promote free trade and an open market system... without injuring the legitimate interests of the developing countries."

## Hamas assails Christopher

(Continued from page 12)

Palestinian leader strongly condemns the kidnapping while Mr. Christopher told reporters Mr. Arafat had told him the operation was directed against him personally.

Hamas, which claimed the "heroic operation" was conducted by its Izzedine Al Qassam brigades, demanded the release of its founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin who is serving a life sentence in Israel. It also said Israel must free all jailed members of Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades, 50 other Hamas militants, 25 members of the Islamic Jihad movement, 50 members of Fateh and 10 activists of the Democratic

Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In the statement, the Islamic movement said Mr. Christopher's comments will not succeed in distorting the image of Hamas, which "the Palestinian people, our Arab and Muslim nation and all the free people in the world know, is a patriotic movement exercising its people's legitimate right to fight those who scattered its people and violated the sacredness of their holy shrines."

It said the right to resist occupation is one guaranteed by all religions and international laws, adding that it will continue to oppose the peace talks and to resist the occupation until all of Palestine is freed.

## Self-rule moves in crisis

(Continued from page 1)

Bank or holding Palestinian elections.

"If the autonomous areas turn into a shelter for murderers, Israel cannot be asked to expand these areas," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the kidnapping affair was the toughest test yet of the Israel-PLO accord on autonomy.

"The way this matter is handled will have grave implications for the future," Mr. Peres said. "All signs indicate that be (the soldier) is in Gaza, and the Palestinian authority must act."

Mr. Rabin has staked his political prestige on rescuing Cpl. Waxman.

He suspended peace talks with the Palestinians Tuesday and ordered the Gaza Strip sealed, barring 30,000 labourers from reaching jobs in Israel.

Workers streamed back from the crossing point after being denied entry to Israel Wednesday.

Israel radio said the Israeli-controlled border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt was also closed at Rafah.

Mr. Rabin called Mr. Arafat late Tuesday and told him: "This is the true test for the Palestinian authority."

However, Palestinian security officials on Wednesday rejected Israel's claims.

"Following an investigation conducted in the past 24 hours, the initial information shows that the kidnapped Israeli soldier is not in Gaza," an Arafat spokesman said.

Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali said troops were searching for the soldier and his kidnappers.



Swiss workers unload the coffins of members of the apocalyptic Order of the Solar Temple (AFP photo)

## Swiss cult deaths baffle investigators

By Philippe Naughton  
Reuter

FRIBOURG, Switzerland — It had all the elements of a classic cult suicide: Astrological mumbo jumbo, pseudo-religious ritual and caped corpses lying in formation.

But officials investigating the deaths last week of 48 members of a doomsday sect now admit they are baffled by what could yet go down as the most heinous crime in Swiss history.

Their first question, "was it suicide or murder?" appears to have been settled. Examining magistrate Andre Pillar, leading the inquiry into 23 deaths in the village of Cheiry, says some had definitely been murdered.

Countless other questions, however, have yet to find answers and new information surfaces each day that forces police and investigators to change tack.

The question on everyone's lips is what has happened to Joseph Di Mambro and Luc Joutet, the dictatorial boss of the ill-fated Order of the Solar Temple and his charismatic sidekick?

With international arrest warrants out in their names, are they on the run? Or are the pair among the 25 charred corpses that police and firemen lifted from the remains of three chalets in Granges Sur Salvan?

Both men visited the village last Tuesday a few hours before the deaths that shattered Granges' Alpine tranquillity and Swiss media reports on Sunday suggested Mr. Di Mambro had been identified among the dead by members of his family.

Other questions abound. If it was murder, what was the motive? How can any mass murderer, convince dozens of people to let themselves be killed in the

name of a cult.

What happened the Friday before the killings, when cult leaders had dinner together at a restaurant in Montreux? Did they decide then that the time had come to liquidate the sect and abscond with its multimillion dollar assets?

And what about the Canadian connection and reports that the whole Solar Temple sect was just a cover for an international arms trafficking ring and money-laundering operation?

At a weekend news conference, Mr. Pillar had few answers. "The picture is confusing. We no longer understand how the drama unfolded," said the judge, the first last Wednesday to put forward the theory of collective suicide.

As an example of that confusion, Mr. Pillar described three corpses found in the basement at Cheiry where sect members worshipped at a Garish temple

before — in the words of an apparent suicide note sent to a local historian — embarking on their "transit to the future."

One of the bodies, Mr. Pillar said, had two bullet holes in his head, but the plastic bag covering it was intact.

Another victim had three bullet holes in his head, but there was only one hole in the bag. Another had eight bullet wounds but no plastic bag.

If we look at these figures, at the difference in these cases, we have trouble finding a logical modus operandi," Mr. Pillar said. "At this level, we still have a lot to do."

Mr. Pillar, a 46-year-old who has specialised in investigating white-collar financial crime in the western canton of Fribourg, said he had not seen any documents suggesting a link with the arms trade.

But he said searches had

been made in various banks and financial institutions, mostly in Geneva, and early results suggested "astounding surprises" could be on the way.

Investigators' luckiest break so far is that a delayed incendiary device attached to the telephone at the Cheiry farmhouse did not work, apparently because the village's telephone lines were cut on the day of the murders.

If the device, attached to butane gas bottles and plastic binbags full of petrol, had worked, the sect headquarters where 23 bodies were found would have been entirely destroyed.

Unfortunately, they had no such luck in the three charred chalets in Granges Sur Salvan. Police officials say that if Mr. Joutet and Mr. di Mambro did die it would have been in Granges, where the corpses were in a much poorer state.

## Russia urgently needs quality family planning

By Danny Ruevekamp

LARISA IS fed up with men and sex, at least for the time being. Very pale and shabby, she carefully lies down on the sofa in her grandmother's house. She just had her fourth abortion. Larisa is 23 years old.

Why Larisa at the age of 23 had her fourth abortion in a so-called developed country relates to the sad family planning history of the 75 post-revolution years of the former Soviet Union.

Legalising abortion as an instrument of family planning dates to the October revolution of 1917. Terminations were performed in state hospitals free of charge upon a woman's request. On the one hand this was a result of egalitarian ideas and the increasing involvement of women in the labour market, and on the other hand a result of the rapidly deteriorating situation and famine in the years after the revolution.

The view held in those days was that abortion was only a temporary phenomenon and would be reduced as soon as living conditions improved. This also meant that little attention was paid to the development of contraceptives.

In the 1920s and 1930s Stalin was faced with a falling birth rate and the need for manpower for the labour force and the armed forces. He banned both abortion and contraceptives. A growing number of some-

times fatal complications after self-induced or semi-professional abortions resulted, while Stalin's wish to increase the birth rate remained unfulfilled. Abortion was legalised again in 1956, but the right to contraception was never fully restored.

For the last 10 years the official registered number of abortions in the former Soviet Union (258 million inhabitants) has amounted to 7 million a year. Estimates of illegal abortions range from 3 million to 5 million per year. Even using the most conservative estimate, on abortions the former Soviet Union ranks highest in the world. Infant mortality is far worse than in any other European country, and life expectancy has fallen recently.

Surprisingly, Larisa and most other Russian women do not protest against the intolerable situation they have to put up with. "We've never learned to protest" is what most Russian women say. "If every other thing is rotten also, like queuing for food, working all day and having an uninterested and often drunken husband at home in the evening, abortion does not stand out as more horrible than any other problems we have to live with," is a comment often heard.

There was no point for women in seeking the support of the Soviet Women's Committee, the only women's organisation that was allowed in the former Soviet Union, either. Nor could they ask for help or seek advice of the three official women's magazines or the women in parliament.

These women were not chosen for their interest in the difficulties women faced in their daily life. They were chosen because they agreed with everything the party dictated. And the party dictated that the life of a Soviet woman was wonderful. The magazines only printed stories of women that happily performed all their duties and still found time for embroidery. Sexual matters were not discussed at all.

But there are other reasons why Russian women put up with the lack of proper family planning services. The long isolation of the former Soviet Union certainly restricted knowledge about the development of contraceptives in the West.

The contraceptives that existed were imported from Eastern Bloc countries or were produced in their own factories. In the whole of the former Soviet Union there was only one condom factory. Not only were the condoms of poor quality, the number produced there was so small it amounted to only about seven a year per family. Due to the worsening of the economic situation even this factory has been closed down.

High-dose pills and intrauterine device (IUDs) imported from other Eastern Bloc countries were also of had quality and the side-effects did little to popularise them. The breaking of economic ties with these countries meant that supplies almost immediately disappeared.

An additional problem was that even if the former Soviet Union had wished to offer women a choice, these contraceptives would have had to be bought for hard currency from the West. Consequently this led to a lack of knowledge about modern methods of family planning, by doctors as well as politicians and by the population.

Some doctors claimed that an abortion a year is good for the female constitution. Perhaps more relevantly, performing illegal abortions was and is a very lucrative addition to the poor salaries of gynaecologists.

A lot needs to be done, including education on sexuality, for all ages and both sexes. The involvement of men in discussing sexual behaviour and birth control is urgently needed. Most men in the former Soviet Union still consider family planning a female affair that requires no interference from them. "Let the women talk it over in the kitchen," they agree.

Most men will not use condoms and women dare not carry them off fear

of being considered prostitutes. Gynaecologists admit to never having seen a couple together in their surgery. Men will have to be taught that it takes two to make a baby.

In 1991 Russia saw the end of the rule of the Communist Party, but life has not yet ceased to be an endless struggle for survival. Though it's dawning on Russian society that the current situation cannot be tolerated much longer, there are huge hurdles ahead. Plans, proposed three years ago, to open 12 family planning centres in Moscow met with a number of problems: the inertia of the bureaucratic system; the lack of finance; a shortage of trained personnel and people's suspicion of government agencies.

But a start has been made. In St. Petersburg, for example, there is now a centre for family planning, funded to see 30,000 women a year, and a young people's centre has been opened with a small family planning element. The Russian Family Planning Association is gradually building services — there are 28 branches at present — and its training for doctors and its new and translated materials should help doctors to become more confident about counselling and providing contraception — when supplies improve.

IPPF Feature.

## Professional gambling skills help forecast German election result

By Michael Anders  
Agence France Presse

BONN — To know what's really going to happen at the German general election on Oct. 16, one's best bet might lie with the bookmakers or those professional gamblers, stock-market operators.

Interestingly, neither seem much influenced by the recent electoral defeats of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the effect this might have on the future of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's current centre-right

coalition. SSP Overseas Betting Ltd, which claims to be the world's largest international bookmaker and is taking bets on the election, says continuation of the Christian Union parties' coalition with the FDP is favourite.

Before Sunday's latest setback for the liberals in Bavaria, SSP gave the odds on the present government of CDU/CSU with FDP being reelected as 1.25 to one, that is to say "fairly likely".

By comparison, it gave the chances for a Social Democrat coalition with the

environmentalist Greens as 10-1 against.

More probable, according to SSP, is a grand coalition of CDU/CSU with the Social Democrats, at only 6-1 against.

The chances of the Social Democrats winning an absolute majority were very slim, at 100-1 against. Those of the CDU/CSU winning an absolute majority were five times better, at 20-1.

Asked about their odds following the Bavarian result, SSP's Corinna Papendorf told AFP Monday they had not yet changed, and

that the belief was still that the coalition of CDU/CSU with FDP would remain in power.

SSP Overseas Betting says it has been taking bets on German elections since 1975.

As well as betting on the shape of the government, punters can put money on the percentage of votes they think a party will win, for which SSP is also giving odds.

For example these show the FDP, whose performance could be crucial on Oct. 16, as having a 4-1 chance of winning seven per

cent of the vote, and an even better 3.25-1 chance of winning eight per cent.

This also suggests that the liberals will make the five per cent necessary to win a seat and thus continue with the government coalition, which should be a comfort to both Mr. Kohl and the FDP leader, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. Latest SSP figures indicated likely voting strengths as follows: CDU/CSU 42 per cent, SPD 36 per cent, Greens nine per cent, FDP eight per cent and the ex-Communist PDS between three and four per cent.



## Iran's anti-profiteering campaign gains momentum

TEHRAN (R) — A government anti-profiteering campaign has gathered momentum as Iranian officials urged people to inform on hoarded goods warehouses and a radio station launched a programme to expose overchargers on the air.

Newspapers were filled with complaints about high prices, many naming private or public companies and shops allegedly at fault, since President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani signalled the drive Friday.

Ahmad Khomeini, son of Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, acknowledged that bribery and corruption dogged the state bureaucracy and called for a serious fight to root out "economic terrorists."

Tehran Radio quoted Ebrahim Raesi, head of the General State Inspectorate, as saying it had set up an inspection force to oversee the campaign, especially at the commerce ministry.

"He urged the people to cooperate with the inspectors to identify food warehouses or places where hoarded consumer goods are kept," the radio said.

Hamshahri newspaper, quoting central bank figures, said year-on-year inflation in urban areas in the first five months of the Iranian year

started on March 21 was 30.2 per cent. The bank put the inflation rate across the country last Iranian year at 22 per cent.

State-run Payam Radio, which broadcasts light music and traffic news in Tehran, started a phone-in programme asking citizens to expose overcharging shops on the air.

The prosecutor himself named a supermarket which he said charged too much just after he announced the new programme.

The campaign, which was launched after a series of steep price rises in goods including some controlled by the government, harks a trend towards a free-market economy since 1989 under economic reforms championed by President Rafsanjani.

The president said Friday the government could not be indifferent to profiteers who caused popular dissatisfaction.

Ahmad Khomeini, in a meeting with security officials, said profiteers were more dangerous than armed opposition groups suppressed by the Islamic government.

"The economic terrorists are targeting the entire nation. If we do not deal with corrupt roots seriously, we cannot get desirable results by slogans or just fighting the effects," Mr. Khomeini was quoted by Resalat newspaper as saying.

without elaborating.

Complaints printed in newspapers listed a variety of factors for high prices including public sector mismanagement, lack of laws to control the private sector and government raising of utility rates.

Salam newspaper quoted shopkeeper Sina Jalili as saying a government-affiliated foundation had raised the wholesale price of cooking oil it produces by five per cent since last week.

"This shows that even government institutions are not ready to cooperate in the fight against overcharging," it quoted Ms. Jalili as saying.

A paint manufacturer, quoted by Kayhan newspaper, said his workshop's electricity bill had increased tenfold since March. "We naturally have to raise the price of our products," he said.

Ahmad Khomeini, in a meeting with security officials, said profiteers were more dangerous than armed opposition groups suppressed by the Islamic government.

"The economic terrorists are targeting the entire nation. If we do not deal with corrupt roots seriously, we cannot get desirable results by slogans or just fighting the effects," Mr. Khomeini was quoted by Resalat newspaper as saying.

## Rouble crisis balloons; Yeltsin seeks scapegoat

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin fired acting finance minister Sergei Dubinin and demanded the head of conservative central bank chief Viktor Geraschenko Wednesday as the hunt for a scapegoat for Russia's rouble collapse began.

Mr. Yeltsin said the rouble's nosedive was the result of "sabotage" by groups who organised the disastrous fall.

The currency debacle threatened to blow into a full-scale political crisis as Mr. Yeltsin ordered the head of the former KGB intelligence service to investigate the causes of the rouble's 21.5 per cent crash against the dollar on Tuesday.

The public anger fast turned against the government as the State Duma (lower parliament) called a formal vote of confidence in the government on Oct. 21 at the request of an opposition faction, the Centrist Democratic Party of Russia.

The rouble rose 5.1 per cent on Moscow's Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) Wednesday to 3,736 to the dollar from Tuesday's 3,926 after losing half its value in less than two months.

Mr. Yeltsin's chief of staff Sergei Filatov told reporters the president had signed a decree dismissing reformer Dubinin, whose provisional appointment in January had

never been confirmed.

Mr. Yeltsin also sent a letter to the State Duma seeking the dismissal of Mr. Geraschenko, Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin said.

Under the Russian constitution, the central bank governor is appointed by parliament on Mr. Yeltsin's recommendation.

Conservative Geraschenko, a sworn enemy of reformers since taking office in July 1992, has traditionally had support among the Duma's majority conservatives, agrarians and ex-communists.

But Wednesday representatives of all factions seemed opposed to his remaining in office. The Duma put off a decision until Thursday, pending a report from the finance committee.

Refusal to sack him could raise the spectre of another head-on collision between Mr. Yeltsin and his parliament. Last year's confrontation ended in street battles and bloodshed.

Foreign exchange trading came to a halt after news of the sackings. "Nobody knows what sort of policy the new bosses will implement," said Dmitry Fiskulov of Rossiyskiy Kredit Bank.

Banking sources named Mr. Dubinin's first deputy, Andrei Vavilov, as a likely candidate for the finance minister's post.

Two Dubinin deputies, Sergei Aleksasbenko and Andrei Kazmin, told Reuters they too would go if the minister was sacked.

Mr. Yeltsin was out alone in his conviction that the rouble

crisis was caused by shadowy political enemies. Russians brought up under the Soviet command economic system often assume political manoeuvring lies behind economic turmoil.

Economy Minister Alexander Shokhin said the rouble's collapse was a plot to destabilise the government.

"There are forces out there who do not want to see the government in full control. Now we need to find out who all these speculative political and commercial forces on the foreign exchange market are," he told Russia's Ostankino Television.

Mr. Shokhin, a Marxist-educated economist, then vowed to punish "illegal" hard currency transactions on the MICEX market.

The rouble's collapse, yet another oasty introduction to the pitfalls of capitalism for millions of Russians, will push up inflation and sabotage government efforts to fund its widening budget deficit by non-inflationary domestic debt issues.

Reformist economist Andrei Illarionov said inflation could soar as high as 30 per cent a month from September's 7.7 in the coming months as the cost imported goods, which make up nearly half of Russia's consumer market, soars.

He predicted October monthly inflation would hit 15 per cent.

Anger about inflation was a factor in last December's parliamentary elections, when reformers suffered a humiliating setback against

ultra-nationalists and communists.

Economists said the crisis is certain to discredit the idea of free market reforms and could send Russia lurching back towards a Soviet-style economic management with tighter controls on the economy, banking sector and financial markets.

"There are a lot of losers out there," said Charles Briner, the chief World Bank economist in Moscow. "Russia is at a crossroads although so far I don't see any sign of wavering on reform."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 1994  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You have to be careful that someone doesn't get the best of you in some monetary matter today that could have some long-term condition you don't want to deal with. This is the worst day of this month.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be careful not to take on any heavy investments which could cripple you financially very quickly. Socialise tonight with close companions.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You are anxious to go after your personal wishes, but don't use force and make others turn against you in the process.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be careful with your friends since they are apt to be under some tension or other situation and quick to retaliate against you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You may find it difficult to get backing for practical affairs during the daytime hours, but the evening is fine for such.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be protective of your good name during the daytime, but tonight you can have recreational fun with friends. Use care at work.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You want to get into new interests, but it is important you handle regular routines during the day. Safeguard your money for the future.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make sure you go over some account well and be sure you have not made a mistake which could be costly. Devote yourself to loved ones.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A partner could be fired in ideas and give you a rough time if you don't compromise. Reach a happy agreement which is beneficial to all.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You may have difficulty with tasks today, but use self-control and you could win out. Rest up and be happy at home with your mate.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't spend too much money for pleasure during the day. Await the evening to seek out inexpensive pleasures which you will enjoy.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) There could be trouble at home if a close tie is under some bad outside influence, so be careful with this person and all will be fine.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A letter or telephone call could cause problems, but handle them quickly and rise above depressed feelings which could be detrimental to you.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

## Nobel laureate likes 'impossible problems'

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AFP) — A co-winner of the 1994 Nobel economics prize, John Nash, said Tuesday he liked to toil away at "impossible problems" and is thinking about whether the universe is expanding.

Dr. Nash, a professor at Princeton University, told a news conference that he received a phone call early Tuesday from Stockholm

announcing he had won the prize for his work in developing game theory.

Dr. Nash, colleague John Harsanyi and Gertner Reinhard Selten were recognised as pioneers in studying theories used in games as poker and chess to help explain complex economic problems.

"I like to spend time on

what might be impossible problems," said Dr. Nash, 66, a mathematician.

"I'm interested in theoretical physics too," he added.

Dr. Nash said he spends time "thinking about the concept that perhaps the universe is not expanding."

"It's a popular belief among scientists that it is expanding, but the rate of

expansion is not known... I think it is an interesting possibility that it is not expanding at all," he stated.

Dr. Nash was singled out in the trio for developing what became known as the Nash Equilibrium, a concept for non-cooperative games that the academy said became a standard tool in almost all areas of economic theory.

## Europe urged to widen links with East Asia

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong Wednesday said Europe should expand links with East Asia's booming economies and also stay open to poorer Asian states.

"Europe should stay open to trade with lower-income Asian nations and invest in their economies. Then it will gain access to the fastest growing markets," he told about 500 top European and Asian government and business leaders.

Mr. Goh described as "remarkably short-sighted" arguments by French economist Maurice Allais that free trade with developing countries would lead to mass unemployment, unequal wages and eventually social

explosion in Europe.

He said such theories were as "misguided" as the old notion that developing countries would only exploit by trading with rich, developed nations.

Mr. Goh was opening the third Europe-East Asia Economic Summit organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) based in Davos, Switzerland.

WEF officials said that the forum is discussing the need to broaden economic relations between East Asia and Europe and will propose ways of achieving this at the end of the three-day meeting.

"There is today the need for a broadening of the political cooperation between Europe and non-Japan East

Asia," Claude Smadja, a senior adviser to the WEF, said in a paper distributed here.

He said that while stronger links would give an economic boost to the two regions, weak ties could heighten friction and hurt global growth.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad will address the meeting Thursday with Cambodian First Premier Norodom Ranariddh speaking on Friday.

Mr. Goh said that while Europe was expected to intensify trade and investment links within its boundaries over the next few decades, it should also look outward towards Asia.

"Europe's export drive in Asia has not been matched by its investment drive," he said, adding that Europe's investments in Asia also lagged behind those of Japanese and American firms.

Mr. Goh suggested Asian and European countries set up bilateral business councils to foster dialogue on economic cooperation.

He said that cross-cultural business institutes could help Europeans network with Asians and gain from learning about each other's methods of doing business.

"Immersion in Asian culture would allow Western executives to appreciate the reasons for business practices which might otherwise befuddle them," Mr. Goh said.

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**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

"If they can afford to send us all these bills, then they must not need our money too badly!"

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Heidi Arnold and Mike Angillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**HYNIS** **VOGEL** **NABACA** **SAFRAC**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:  THE

Saturday's Jumbles: SPURN FLAME BOTTLE PONDER  
Answer: What happened to the baking actor? — HE LOST HIS PART

**Peanuts**

**Andy Capp**

**Mutt'n'Jeff**

**THE Daily Crossword** by James Barrick

ACROSS

1. Curses
2. Rope for a country
3. Arie
4. am
5. Dutchman
6. Inventor Howe
7. Faint by plots
8. Escapade
9. Act like a ham
10. Father or filly
11. Matador
12. Table advantage
13. Paced
14. Old service
15. acronyms
16. Overpowering terror
17. Vocal composition
18. Guide of a kind
19. Piece in "Paradise Lost"
20. Content
21. Shock
22. Pictorial pushers
23. Stalemate
24. Coconuts
25. Give the once-over
26. Tyle
27. Kanan chapter
28. Yogi of baseball
29. Dried fruit
30. Formal tea
31. Bay window
32. Cache
33. Travel
34. Skin ridges
35. Having a dull surface
36. Gentlemen
37. 27 Oct French coin
38. Paled
39. Fever
40. State of
41. "Gunslinger"
42. Speech sound
43. Kanan chapter
44. Items for old
45. Excerpt
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## China hits slow day at Asian Games



Ismail Ibrahim Muftah of Qatar carries his national flag after winning the men's 400m athletics event at the 12th Asian Games Wednesday. Muftah won the gold medal in a time of 45.48 (AFP photo)

HIROSHIMA (AP) — A Qatari, a South Korean and strong winds stole the show from the Chinese in Asian Games track and field Wednesday, and injury kept China from winning anything in the opening event of its native martial art.

Winds of up to 36 kph forced postponement of six track and field events, leaving just three finals on the programme. China won one, with 1,500-metre world record holder Qu Yunxia leading a 1-2 finish in the women's 800.

But in the men's taijiquan competition of wushu, the Chinese fighting sport, China's Wang Erping had to drop out with a sprained ankle and Japan's Masaru Masuda won the gold, ahead of Chan Ming-Shu of Taiwan, where the art also flourishes.

The Chinese recouped in shooting, however, with three golds and won the women's soccer championship, beating Japan 2-0 in the final. They also won one judo gold.

Japan, meanwhile, won two golds in judo and one each in cycling, wushu and shooting, slightly expanding its lead over South Korea in the hotly contested battle for second place in the gold medal column.

Japan had 41 golds to 38 for the Koreans, who had victories Wednesday in track, judo and softball tennis. But China was far ahead with 106. Kazakhstan stood fourth with 17 after a cycling victory.

In total medals, China had 204 to 147 for Japan and 119 for South Korea.

Qu, a member of coach Ma

Junren's "army" of stellar distance runners, took the women's 800 in a games record 1 minute, 59.85 seconds, with teammate Lin Li second in 2:00.66. India's Shiny Wilson took the bronze in 2:02.22.

South Korea's Lee Jin-Il also broke a games record in the men's 800, winning in 1:45.73. China's Min Weiguo was second in 1:46.44. The old record of 1:46.81, set by India's Charles Borremee, had stood for 12 years.

Ibrahim Ismail Muftah captured Qatar's second gold medal in 45.48 seconds, with South Korea's Shon Ju-Il taking the silver in 45.87.

Japan took two of the day's four gold medals in its native sport of judo. Shigeru Okaizumi was a decisive winner over Kim Jae-sik in the men's 95-kilogramme division, and Jun Konno beat Iran's Seyed Miran in the open class.

In the women's competition, South Korea's Kim Mi-Jung scored clear victory over China's Leng Chunhui at 72 kilograms and Zhang Ying of China was a decisive winner in the open class over Taiwan's Yeh Wen-Hua.

In cycling, Japan's Masanaga Shiohara won the men's one-kilometre time trial in 1:05.581, breaking the games record of 1:06.789. South Korea's Hong Suk-Han took the silver in 1:06.317.

Vadim Kravtchenko of Kazakhstan won the 4-kilometre individual pursuit, beating Kyrgyzstan's Evgeniy Vakkere 4: 40:50.9 to 4:40:75.7 in the final and breaking the 8-year-old games record of 4:44.850.

South Korea beat Taiwan 3-1 in the final for the gold medal in the women's team event of softball tennis, a variation on ordinary tennis developed at a time when Asians had a hard time

obtaining a regular supply of the customary tennis balls. A soft rubber ball is used, and scorekeeping is different.

But Taiwan gained revenge in the men's final, beating the Koreans 3-2.

In standard tennis, South Korea's Yoon Yong-Il upset No. 1 seed Leander Paes of India 6-7, (2-7), 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals. In the final, he will play No. 2 seed Pan Bing of China, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over third seed Benny Wijaya of Indonesia.

The women's singles final will be all Japanese. No. 1 seed Kimiko Date ousted Indonesia's Yayul Bauski 6-0, 5-7, 6-0 and Naoko Sawamatsu beat China's Chen Li 6-1, 6-3.

Japan captured one of Wednesday's shooting medals, but China took the other three.

Noriko Ojima won for Japan in individual standard rifle shooting, beating China's Xu Yanhua 666.7 to 662.7. But China won the team event with 1,698 and South Korea took silver with 1,692.

Wang Yifu tied a games record in winning the individual standard pistol event with 575, and helped his team take another gold with a games record 1,714. China also had set the old mark of 1,708.

China won the women's basketball bronze medal by trouncing Taiwan 83-31. South Korea and Japan will meet in the gold-medal game Thursday.

Pakistan, the defending games champion in men's field hockey, bowed to South Korea in the semifinals Wednesday. The Koreans won a penalty shootout 4-1 after the two teams tied 2-2.

In Saturday's final, the Koreans will play perennial power India, a 1-0 winner over Japan.

## Fawwaz: Jordan made its best debut in Asian Games

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In addition to its participation in the athletic events of the 12th Asian Games currently underway in Hiroshima, Japan, Jordanian delegates have been elected to the permanent committees of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Dr. Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz, chairman of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) Wednesday asserted at a press conference that Jordan's participation in the games was the best to date.

"This was the best delegation that ever represented Jordan, whether in terms of preparation or results obtained," he said.

For the first time, Jordan was on the official medals table after earning four medals in the taekwondo competitions.

In the OCA elections, held concurrently with the games due to be concluded Sunday, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya was elected to the athletes committee; Dr. Fawwaz was reelected to the sports committee, and Dr. Isam Al Haj Hassan to the sports medicine committee.

Dr. Fawwaz clarified that two other Jordanian delegates, Abdullah Abu Nuwar, a candidate for the information and statistics committee and Mohammad Qadri Hassan, a candidate to the media committee were not elected after member states agreed that the maximum number of a country's candidates not exceed three.

"This was the actual reason they were not elected, and not as reported by some newspapers that their exclusion was because they were accidentally named to the same committee," he explained.

"It was discovered on the day of the election that Qadri Hassan was accidentally

named to the information committee because he had filled in his application stating that he was applying to the Sports and Youth Information Federation — the name of the Sports Media Federation of Jordan. So it was a word mix-up."

On the whole, Jordan was elected to 3 committees out of seven. Kuwait, Syria and Saudi Arabia were elected to two, Oman in one while Bahrain, Qatar and Lebanon were not elected.

Thirteen athletes and 10 officials represented Jordan in the Hiroshima Games where the official slogan has been "Asian Harmony."

Nearly 7,300 athletes represented 42 nations in 337 events of 34 different sports. The 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima marked the second time Japan has hosted the games, the first time having been in Tokyo. The games also marked the first time that the games have been held in a non-capital city.

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, representing the Kingdom in the equestrian competition, qualified along with 12 others to the final round but was unable to continue when she was thrown off her horse and was hospitalized for two hours, suffering bruises in her chest and right leg.

Jordan secured two silver and two bronze medals in taekwondo.

Mohammad Al Zu'bi earned Jordan's first medal when he won the silver in the flyweight class after losing to South Korea's Chin Seung-Tae.

Zu'bi, who was injured in the final, settled for second place and was unable to continue. He later had his left hand put in a cast.

Ammar Fahed won another Silver after losing the middleweight final to Kuwait's Hameed Hassan.

Youssef Abu-Zaid won the bronze in the lightweight category, while Fawzi Nuweiser won the other bronze in the heavyweight competition.

In the athletics competition, Awwad Sreys came in sixth in the 10,000 metres setting a new Jordanian record at 29 m13 seconds. He will next compete in the 500 metres.

Meanwhile Hassan Abu Nijem qualified for the final of the 800 metres competition where he finished last on Wednesday with a time of 1 minute 49.09 seconds.

Results in the karate competition were the most disappointing. Na'el Oweimer was disqualified for mask abuse when the referee announced that his opponent from Taipei was the winner. In a moment of rage, Oweimer hurled his protective face mask at the attending fans. The referees committee decided to cancel all his results and disqualified him from the competition in which he had secured fifth place.

His teammate Fa'eq Al Ja'fari pulled out of the competition in the second round because of injury.

In the shooting competition, Khaled Nagaway set a new Jordanian record and came in 13th which qualifies him for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games. Meanwhile teammate Rami Abul Ragheb failed to score a satisfying result.

The JOC had decided to limit Jordan's participation to athletics, equestrian, shooting, taekwondo, and karate, since athletes of the five sports had met the requirements and criteria for participation in such an international competition.

Jordan's last participation in the Asian games was back in 1986 in Seoul where Jordan won a medal in taekwondo which was then an exhibition sport.

## Boxing chief to suspend judges

HIROSHIMA (R) — Up to a dozen boxing judges may be suspended for incompetence after the Asian Games end, the head of the World Amateur Boxing Association said Wednesday.

International Amateur Boxing Association President Anwar Choudhry said he decided to take the action after complaints about the result of several fights in Tuesday's semifinals.

"I am going to take action after the competition is over and 10 to 12 people may be saying goodbye," Choudhry told Reuters in an interview. Choudhry singled out for criticism the judges for the light heavyweight semi-final between South Korea's Ko Young-Sam and Kazakhstan's Vassili Jirov, which Ko won 17-10 on points.

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## Ma's mystery disappearance resolved

HIROSHIMA (R) — China's long-distance running coach Ma Junren Wednesday finally revealed the mystery of his squad's disappearance from the international circuit, saying 11 of them had their appendices removed.

"We had to stop training last year because we were getting sick. We were having toxicological problems and that is why we are running slower times," he told Japan's national news agency Kyodo.

"Eleven Ma's family army members had to have their appendices removed and they needed to recover from their operations," Ma said.

Ma, famed for feeding his world record-breaking athletes turtle's blood poisons, did not elaborate on the causes of their system poisoning.

His stunning disclosure answered one of sports great mysteries for the past year. Ma's stable of women run-

ners have remained a source of speculation and mystery since they swept the board at last year's world championships in Stuttgart.

Wang Junxia went on at the Chinese national championships to lop an astonishing 42 seconds off the 10,000 metres world record in 29 minutes 31.78 seconds and bettered the 3,000 metres records by 16.5 seconds.

The results drew criticism from Western coaches who accused Ma of using banned substances to improve performances, allegations strongly denied by the coach who says they are the result of advanced training methods.

In the interview the flamboyant coach also denied speculation that he is at odds with China's centralised sports bureaucracy.

He said the state Commission for Sports and Physical Culture, China's sports ministry, was in charge.

## Palestine grabs spotlight in brief appearance at games

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Palestine hijacked media attention at the Asian Games for 30 minutes here Wednesday after losing its one and only event.

Fifteen-year-old table tennis player Mohammad Rabi Al Turk was unhappy to have lost his first round match in the men's singles tournament.

"I was scared and I played very badly," he said of his 7-21, 9-21, 15-21 loss to Indonesia's Anton Suseno.

But surrounded by television cameras and a crowd of journalists, afterwards, he displayed none of the fear he attributed to failure.

"I am very proud to be here representing Palestine. It is my country," said the Cairo-born teenager.

"There will be many more of us under our flag at Atlanta."

He hopes to be selected for the 1996 Olympic Games team, but must beat others wishing to compete when the Palestinian flag appears for the first time since Israel granted the West Bank and Gaza Strip town of Jericho limited autonomy.

Al Turk showed some of his potential in the third game against Suseno, defeating a supportive gallery with some exciting attacking play.

"Maybe I played better in the third game only, but in the first and the second, no, I was very bad."

Now that the pressure is off, Al Turk said he planned to enjoy himself.

"I think will do some shopping," he said.

Then it's back to study. He missed two weeks of high school where he is

studying in the hope of becoming an engineer to help rebuild the homeland he has never lived in.

His father, Rabi Al Turk, 51, who fled the Gaza Strip in 1967 after the 1967 war, said his boy played well.

"I never think about winning. I don't believe that's what sport is about," said the elder Al Turk, who works in the Palestinian office in Cairo and was Palestine's table tennis champion before becoming a refugee.

"Here all we hoped to do was to extend Palestinian friendship," he said.

He is at the games as deputy president of Palestine's National Olympic Committee. "I am proud of him. He's here, and he raised the flag for Palestine. That's more than enough."

## Becker, Bruguera fall in Japanese tourney

TOKYO (Agencies) — Both Boris Becker and French Open champion Sergi Bruguera fell in their first matches Wednesday at the \$1 million Seiko Saper Tennis Tournament to players not even ranked in the top 100.

A lackluster Becker fell to New Zealander Brett Steven 6-3, 6-4, and American Tommy Ho came back from 5-1 down in the final set to beat Bruguera 6-7 (7-4), 6-2, 7-6.

Becker, the champion here in 1986 and 1988, complained about the "terrible" conditions, in which three courts are only about 15 metres (yards) from each other, separated by see-through mesh.

"You're just ready to serve a second serve and they clap or the announcer says 'This one' or 'That one' are going to play," said Becker, the world's No. 6 player, seeded fifth here.

Still, he admitted Steven, ranked 110, "played a great match" and deserved to win, using well-placed serves and volleys on the fast supreme carpet surface.

Ho, a Floridian whose parents are from Taiwan and who is ranked 145, said his first victory over a top 10 player "couldn't happen in a better place.... I play my best tennis here in Asia."

Bruguera, ranked fourth and seeded second but playing his first time in Japan, attributed the loss to jet-lag, tired legs and Ho's attacks of his baseline play.

Down two breaks in the last set, Ho smashed an overhead to break back in the eighth game, and Bruguera double-faulted in the 10th to tie the score 5-5.



Boris Becker

Jonathan Stark of the U.S. straight-setted Wally Masur of Australia 6-3, 6-4.

In doubles, the popular pair of Stefan Edberg and Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka — who teamed specially for this tournament — beat Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, the world's top-ranked team, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Meanwhile, Becker, who has threatened to pull out of next January's Australian Open, said Wednesday he had been assured that controversial new rules would not be rigidly enforced.

Becker had been angered by an International Tennis Federation (ITF) ruling proposing shortening the time between points from 25 to 20 seconds.

He said the enforced increase in the tempo of matches could endanger players' health, particularly at the Australian Open at Melbourne's Flinders Park where temperatures can soar to more than 40 degrees Centigrade.

On Wednesday Becker said he had spoken with the director of the Australian Open and the president of the Australian association.

"They explained that they wanted to make it a 20-second rule but that on a long point they'll make it 25 seconds... so they knew that they weren't doing the right thing," the world number six said. "They are trying to make it like a loose 20-second rule."

But Becker was not forgiving enough to revoke his threat to boycott the Australian Open.

"I will make my mind up as late as possible," he said.

## Sports still perplexed by man-woman question

HIROSHIMA (R) — Top medical experts at the Asian Games have failed to come up with a clear-cut answer to the vexed question of who is a man and who is a woman in sports.

At the end of a conference this week on the issue only two things were clear — chromosome testing was not the answer but some test was needed.

"I am afraid without controls there will be imposters," said Dr. Charoentan Chintaneri, deputy governor of Thailand's sports authority.

"It's possible, it can happen. They can do it by genetic engineering," he added.

The conference was held against a background of accusations by some Western coaches that there was something suspicious about the sudden emergence of China's recent women world record swimmers and middle distance runners.

Among the most poignant experiences heard at the conference was from a Filipina doctor who revealed the case of a "female" high school athlete who had both male and female organs.

Dr. Bee Giok Tan said the athlete, brought up as a girl, wanted to participate in international competition but while International Amateur

Athletics Federation (IAAF) rules do not require gender or femininity verification, examinations are performed on a case by case basis.

"I am afraid she won't be allowed to compete," said Tan. "She is not intention... trying to pose as a man."

"I don't know how to proceed in the current situation," Tan said. "She has both male and female organs."

The IAAF stopped testing female athletes in 1992 after they concluded chromosome testing was inconclusive and scientifically inaccurate in determining the sex of an athlete.

"The only reason for gender or femininity testing is to

exclude any man from a woman's competition," said Dr. Arne Ljungqvist, vice-president of the IAAF.

"It's to protect female sports from male intruders," he said.

"In my opinion, in today's sport there is so much media attention, I strongly doubt any man would go into a woman's high level sport," said Ljungqvist.

The dilemma for Asian Games officials is their event falls under International Olympic Council (IOC) rules, where female athletes are still required to take a

gender test before they are allowed to compete.

But even Dr. Yoshio Kuroda, chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) admitted: "It's still difficult for me to determine if someone is a male or female, we must study and investigate this matter, it's not so clear."

Since the IAAF eliminated gender verification, other sport organisations have followed.

This year no women were asked to take the gender test at the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver and testing was also stopped at last year's University Games.

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# France opposes strike on Iraq if all Iraqi forces away from border

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — France believes that a military action against Iraq would be unjustified if it is confirmed that Baghdad had withdrawn all the troops it had moved southward towards the border with Kuwait last week, French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet said Wednesday.

Mr. Bajolet said France was interested in easing the tension in the Gulf but stressed that it was up to Iraq to take the first step towards that by withdrawing its troops from near the Kuwaiti border.

The ambassador said the recent Iraqi movement of troops had undermined all efforts to ease the international sanctions which have been imposed on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

He said France had good hopes that the United Nations would be able to register signs that Iraq was moving towards implementing all U.N. resolutions and thus move towards an easing of the sanctions but the Iraqi movement of troops "have pushed things backwards."

While asserting that a withdrawal of the troops would render military action against Baghdad unjustified, Mr. Bajolet said Iraq would have to do more than that to have the sanctions lifted.

He said the Security Council cannot ignore the latest Iraqi action when it reviews the sanctions regime and Iraq will have to prove that it does not pose a threat to its neighbours.

"Iraq will have to make new efforts to convince the United Nations that it will cooperate with it in the future," the French ambassador told the Jordan Times.

Among the steps that Iraq would have to do, he said, is to recognise the U.N.-drawn border with Kuwait in an unequivocal manner and at the appropriate level.

"You cannot totally forget what Iraq has done," Mr. Bajolet said.

Asserting the independence of French policy in the Middle East, the ambassador said France's position had always been that the sanctions can be lifted only if it is proved that Iraq has complied with all relevant U.N. resolutions.

The ambassador stressed

that France had no other requirements for the lifting of the sanctions and its policy has always been not to interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations "even if (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is not a model for democracy."

The French diplomat said France feels very closely with Jordan's position that it will stand against the party that would raise the prospects of having Arabs fighting Arabs again.

His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan will react seriously and stand against Iraq if it moves towards threatening the stability and security of the region.

Mr. Bajolet said the movement of some French frigates towards the Gulf region is meant to show support for Arab countries that could be threatened by the Iraqi moves and affirm solidarity with France's allies.

France was part of the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait seven months after it occupied the emirate in August 1990. But it has since then followed a policy seen as independent from that of the U.S. towards the Gulf.



A U.S. marines Chinook helicopter lands on the deck of the USS Tripoli which is patrolling the Gulf off the Kuwait coast (AFP photo)

## Hamass assails Christopher for condemning kidnap

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday shot back at U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's condemnation of the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian Islamists.

In a statement faxed to the Jordan Times, Hamas condemned the remarks that Mr. Christopher who made a hastily convened press conference early Wednesday.

Hamas said Mr. Christopher had proven that the United States had become a tool for the Zionist lobby by devoting a press conference to condemn the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier.

The statement, which had no date line, said Mr. Christopher's attempt to mobilise public opinion against Hamas shows "disregard for all the values that his 'democratic' government boasts of" and constitutes a declaration of confrontation with Arab and Muslim people who support Hamas.

In the press conference he held before leaving Jordan for Kuwait, Mr. Christopher said he was "outraged" over the kidnapping of Israeli corporal Nachshon Waksman near Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Mr. Christopher said he had telephoned Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat over the incident and urged him to take all possible actions to rescue the soldier. He said Mr. Arafat described as very serious the kidnapping of the soldier and promised him he will do anything he can to secure the release of the soldier.

Hamas, which said it will continue its armed struggle against Israeli occupation forces, has demanded the release of several Islamist leaders detained by Israel by Friday or the soldier will be killed.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in a video recording broadcast on Israeli Television on Tuesday.

News agencies quoted Nabil Abu Rudeina, a spokesman for Mr. Arafat, as saying the kidnapping was a challenge to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Mr. Abu Rudeina said Mr. Arafat gave orders to his security officials to start an immediate search for the Israeli soldier during a meeting with members of the Palestine National Authority late Tuesday night.

Mr. Abu Rudeina said the

(Continued on page 7)

## Carbombs explode in Algiers; 3 killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Several carbombs exploded in Algiers on Wednesday, one of them killing one occupant and the others injuring at least three others. Two others were shot dead by security forces.

Three carbombs went off outside the Justice Ministry, a university and a student dormitory complex, police reported. A fourth exploded apparently prematurely on a highway, killing the three people inside it, witnesses said.

Two people, including a South Korean businessman, were also shot and killed Wednesday by unidentified gunmen who escaped.

Kang Dae-Hyun, director of the Korean manufacturing conglomerate Daewoo's Algeria office, was shot several times in the head in the eastern suburb of Bordj Al Kiffan, said government sources. He was the 63rd foreigner killed since anti-government radicals began a campaign against foreigners 13 months ago.

Lahcene Ben Saddallah, vice president of the charity group Orientation and Reform, was also gunned down outside his home in a southern Algiers suburb.

Carbombs exploded outside the Justice Ministry's headquarters in downtown Algiers, a women's university complex near the ministry, and Algiers' main university building on the Rue Didonche Mourad.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, although officials said they appeared to mark an escalation of violence by anti-government radicals, one of which had threatened to attack schools.

In less than a week at least 16 policemen have been killed and several more injured according to witnesses and press reports.

Islamic militants have attacked schools and teaching personnel and targeted foreigners who were warned a year ago to leave Algeria or "face sudden death."

Extending Wednesday's attacks, a total of 63 foreigners have been murdered since the ultimatum was issued at the end of October last year.

Algerian security forces Tuesday killed 12 Islamic militants in a series of operations around the country, they reported Wednesday. They also seized a number of weapons.

## Two Jordanians held in Romania in uranium case

AMMAN (J.T.) — The arrest of two Jordanians in connection with uranium and strontium smuggling in Romania was confirmed by Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani on Wednesday.

"The Jordanian government has not been officially informed of the arrests, but I have been in contact with the Jordanian embassy in Romania which has confirmed that two Jordanians have been arrested. As yet we have no further information at all," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

The Romanian embassy in Amman said it knew nothing about the incident.

According to a dispatch by Reuters news agency from Bucharest, seven kilos of uranium and an unspecified quantity of strontium were seized in the Romanian province of Moldavia on Oct. 10 and seven people, including the two Jordanians, were arrested.

A Romanian interior ministry official confirmed local newspaper reports of the internment and told a Reuters correspondent that he believed the two Jordanians, named in a Romanian daily as Abdul Hafez Mohammed Khawajeh and Fand Abdul Haten Ismail Al Zarbi, planned to smuggle the radioactive material to Germany or the Netherlands.

Reuter quoted an official as saying, "All that is in the paper is true."

According to the dispatch, Interior Minister Dorn Ioan Taracila informed the newspaper that a former Ukrainian Red Army officer, Ion Balca, took the uranium and strontium from the Ukraine and smuggled it across the border to friends in Moldavia.

It had then passed to intermediaries in the Romanian province of Transylvania where it was offered to the Jordanians for \$400,000. The strontium, said by police to be highly radioactive, was

offered for \$250,000. No further details were immediately available.

This was the second interception of uranium smugglers in as many weeks.

Romanian authorities said last week that 4.5 kilos of uranium had been seized near Bucharest.

The dispatch said that Western nuclear experts who fear stolen uranium may find its way to guerrillas or non-nuclear powers have warned Romania could be used as a transit point for radioactive contraband because of its virtually open border with the former Soviet Union.

## GATT official urges Jordan to join WTO

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international trade official on Wednesday made a strong case in favour of Jordan directly joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rather than going through the process of entering the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and then the WTO.

K. Kesavapany, ambassador of Singapore's permanent mission in Geneva, also sought to allay Jordanian concerns that joining GATT or WTO would undermine its economic interests by being forced to opening itself for barrier-free trade and services and damage its local industry and exports.

It was the second open discussion on the pros and cons of Jordan joining GATT in the last three months and arranged by the Chamber of Industry.

Khaldoun Ahn Hassan, chairman of the Chamber of Industry, described the gathering as the continuation of a similar meeting held in July with Ake Linden, a GATT expert who visited Jordan to review the Kingdom's draft memorandum that would be reviewed by the international body as the basis for the country's entry application.

Mr. Kesavapany, who heads the GATT working group charged with negotiating Jordan's entry to the international trade agreement, noted that the Middle East peace process had "enhanced prospects for economic and trade cooperation in the region surrounding Jordan."

But, he said, Jordan had to adjust itself to the changing environment in international trade if it were to hope to gain the economic benefits of peace.

In this context, he said, Jordan would be better off directly joining the WTO, which will come into being as of early 1995.

The way to create the WTO was cleared when GATT member countries ratified an agreement. In April, capping more than seven years of laborious negotiations launched in Uruguay.

The very concept of an all-embracing international trade body like WTO was prompted by the limited scope of GATT.

While GATT is limited to trade in industrial goods, the WTO umbrella includes most other sectors of international economy including the services sector and intellectual property rights. It is expected that GATT will become obsolete in two years after the launch of the WTO.

Mr. Kesavapany, who heads the GATT working group charged with negotiating Jordan's entry to the international trade agreement, said the Jordanian concerns over entering any free trade agreement were "legitimate," given the present status of the Kingdom's economy.

The main cause for such concerns, he said, was the absence of a clear understanding what GATT/WTO membership entails and awareness of the built-in mechanisms that the agreements offer to developing countries with a view to protecting their "legitimate" rights.

First of all, he said, Jordan, like all other developing countries, had the option to negotiate its own terms and safeguards while entering GATT or WTO.

The Singaporean ambassador noted that all applicants had the right to close certain sectors of the economy and open certain others as they find it depending on their economic priorities and concerns.

Similarly, the applicants also had the option to set a schedule of when their participation in GATT over a period of years during which they work on related legislation and other related elements.

What matters is, said Mr. Kesavapany, "is how you negotiate the terms" while entering the accord. He pointed out that the basic concept of participation in GATT or WTO was reciprocity. Unless an applicant country opens itself up it could not hope to gain access to other countries, he said.

"Like other intending members, Jordan would not be expected to throw open all its sectors to external competition," he said. "On the contrary, Jordan has the independence to decide which of its sectors it wants to open up for foreign participation. Foreign participation can be limited in the beginning and expanded slowly as the circumstances dictate."

As an example, Mr. Kesavapany cited Singapore's refusal to allow foreign participation in its domestic banking sector while permitting more than 200 banks to operate as offshore companies. Singapore does not allow foreign legal services in the country either.

Another factor in Jordan's favour was that it would be entitled to take advantage of the "special and differential provisions" contained in the various agreements that constitute WTO, he said. "These

(Continued on page 7)

## Haiti government quits crowning political sweep

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Haiti's military-installed president has quit, completing the sweep of coup officials before the homecoming Saturday of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The formal resignation of Emile Jonassaint, broadcast Wednesday morning on local radio, followed the takeover Tuesday of the national palace and other government ministries by American troops.

Mr. Jonassaint, installed as provisional president by the Haitian military after Mr. Aristide was forced into exile, thanked Haitians for their help "through the most tragic period of its history."

"Because of the exceptional circumstances and the situation imposed on our country, from this day on the government ceases to run the administration of state."

The world never recognised the designation in May by coup leaders Raoul Cedras and Michel Francois of the 81-year-old Jonassaint to replace the democratically elected Aristide. However, Mr. Jonassaint gained some international respect when he led by fact officials to accept an agreement brokered by former President Jimmy Carter to step down by Saturday.

Mr. Jonassaint, a nationalist, said he signed the Sept. 19 pact to avert an American invasion.

General Francois, the once-feared capital police

chief, fled Haiti last week for the Dominican Republic. Gen. Cedras, who quit Monday, was making final preparations to evacuate his family and former army chief of staff Philippe Biamby from the country.

In the broadest hint of Gen. Cedras' next destination, U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger said Panama "is a very good possibility."

"I think the opposition that has been military-oriented will have their feet cut out from under them," Mr. Schragger told ABC's "Good Morning America."

Washington has asked Panama to accept Gen. Cedras, Gen. Biamby and 12 other Haitian military officers, said Eric Rodriguez, a Panamanian Foreign Ministry official.

Mr. Aristide himself urged Panama to let in Gen. Cedras. "It would bring peace to Haiti," he said in a statement Tuesday from Washington.

A private Boeing 727 jetliner waited at international airport, and a vice-president of the charter line said the plane had been contacted by the U.S. military.

"We have not been told where it will go or what it will be used for," Jim Froia, vice president of operations for Miami Air International, said in a telephone interview from Miami.

A flight plan had had not

been filed for the plane by midmorning Wednesday, a senior Haitian official said, and a U.S. official said last-minute snags with Panama needed to be worked out to get landing rights in the Central American nation. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Francois, the other coup leader, is also running into trouble overseas. The lower house of parliament in the Dominican Republic unanimously declared him "persona non grata" Tuesday and called on Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer to expel him.

"The government must order his immediate departure from the country because it dishonours our nation," one legislator, Guillermo Castro, declared.

"We cannot allow our country to be converted into a sanctuary for this class of people," said Vindio Tobal, a spokesman for the opposition Dominican Liberation Party.

In preparation for Mr. Aristide's homecoming Saturday, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul has ordered the city swept clean. Among the dignitaries scheduled to attend were U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The new government complained that the old regime had left its affairs in disarray.

## Canadian and Americans win Nobels for physics, chemistry

STOCKHOLM (AP) — An American and a Canadian won the Nobel Prize in Physics Wednesday for developing a powerful tool to study matter in its tiniest detail, using beams of neutrons much the same way microscope uses light.

A Hungarian-born American won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his study of hydrocarbons.

The physics research, begun in the 1940s and 1950s, has broad applications in many fields of science, from the development of superconductors to better computer memory. The research led to further advances by others who already have been honoured with other Nobel awards.

The \$930,000 physics prize will be shared by Clifford G. Shull of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Bertram N. Brockhouse of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

The sole winner of the \$930,000 award for chemistry was George A. Olah, 67, of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He was honoured for discovering ways to manipulate

hydrocarbons, such as those that make up petroleum. The work led to a variety of industrial technologies, including new ways to break down heavy oils and liquify coal.

"I'm astonished and surprised," Mr. Brockhouse said of the award. "How on earth could they pick me?" "It's been very exciting news," Mr. Shull said.

He said the field of study has changed much, especially because of more power neutron sources available today.

Mr. Shull, 79, and Mr. Brockhouse, 76, devised instruments based on a technique they developed called neutron scattering, in which neutrons are bounced off liquids and solids to reveal their atomic structure.

Mr. Shull's research looked at the arrangement of the atoms and Mr. Brockhouse explored their motion. Mr. Shull worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and Mr. Brockhouse at Canada's Chalk River Research Reactor.

"They made their pioneering contributions at the first nuclear reactors in the United States and Canada," the Royal Swedish Academy of

Sciences said in a statement announcing the award.

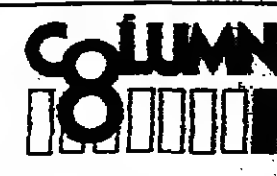
The prize is one of five that Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, a chemist who invented dynamite, endowed in his will.

Last year, the physics committee of the Royal Swedish Academy honoured Russell A. Hulse and Joseph H. Taylor Jr. of the United States for finding a twin star — a binary pulsar — that helped prove Einstein's theory of relativity.

Mr. Olah, the chemistry prize winner, works at the Loker hydrocarbon research institute at the University of Southern California.

The Royal Swedish Academy cited him for "original and imaginative work" in the 1960s. His research proved that certain types of hydrocarbon molecules — called carbocation intermediates — could be stable and long-lived. He developed methods for preparing them for study.

"Olah's scientific contribution have soon widespread recognition among organic chemists and his mother on carbocation now — has a prominent position in all modern textbooks."



## Scottish writer wins a Booker prize

LONDON (R) — Scottish writer James Kelman Tuesday narrowly won Britain's top literary prize with a black comedy about a blind drunk that is peppered with expletives. Accepting the £20,000 (\$32,000) Booker prize for *How Late It Was, How Late*, the self-educated Scot who once, worked as a bus conductor and building labourer launched into an impassioned plea for Scots not to be culturally drowned by the English. At a glittering dinner before London literary at the imposing Guildhall, Mr. Kelman said: "My culture and my language have the right to exist and no one has the authority to dismiss that." The author, wearing an ordinary suit while other guests donned dinner jackets for British literature's big night of the year, added: "One of the remaining freedoms we have is the blank page. No one can prescribe how we should fill it." Mr. Kelman, like last year's Irish prize-winner Roddy Doyle, uses strong language in his dialogue. One critic counted 4,000 expletives in his winning entry.

## 'Baby-for-sale' trial reopens in Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — The trial of a British couple charged with buying and trying to smuggle a baby out of Romania reopened Wednesday with lawyers expecting a verdict soon. "I do hope it will finish today," Bernadette Mooney, 40, told Reuters as she arrived at court with her husband Adrian, 42, for the latest session of their trial — postponed since Sept. 28. Three alleged middlemen to whom they paid \$6,000 for a five-month-old baby girl are also in trial. The Mooneys were arrested on the Hungarian border on July 6 with baby Monica sedated and hidden in a box in their car. They are the first foreigners to face trial under tough adoption laws passed in 1991 to control baby trafficking after the 1989 overthrow of Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu exposed tens of thousands of children in gruesome orphanages. While they could face a five year jail sentence, legal experts expect the Mooneys, who have a three year old legally adopted Romanian daughter, to be fined and given suspended sentences.

## Jaruzelski hit in head with rock

WARSAW (AFP) — General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's former Communist leader, was injured when a large rock thrown by a pensioner hit him on the head while he was signing copies of his book in southwest Poland, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported. The 71-year-old general was taken to the military hospital in Warsaw where he will stay under observation until Wednesday. Initial signs indicate he received only minor injuries and his eyeglasses broke. The aged attacker, who witnesses said wanted to answer for his act, was arrested. He had reportedly carried the rock in a briefcase and was standing in line with people waiting to get the general's autograph.

## 'Alternative Nobel' for Nigerian, 2 groups

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The 1994 Right Livelihood Award, often termed the "alternative Nobel Prize," has been jointly awarded to a Nigerian human rights activist and self-help groups from India and Trinidad. The award committee said Wednesday. This year's award is shared by Nigerian Ken Saro-Wiwa and the organisation for which he is president, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Indian doctor H. Sudarshan and his organisation Vivekananda Girianna Karyana Kendra (VGKK), and the Trinidadian organisation SERVOL (Service Volunteer for All). Saro-Wiwa, a writer, has led protests against alleged exploitation of the Ogoni tribe of southeastern Nigeria and the pollution of their environment by oil extraction.

U.S. Iraq ready to U.S. critics

Israeli host kidnapper

Arafat. Per Nobel amic